Shepherd's Bush CHRONICLE

First established 1883, part of the London Weekly News group | FREE | Tuesday, February 2nd 2016

Prince Harry relishes appointment with danger: P13

Ice hero's £250,000 lifeline to injured veterans

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

ALMOST £250,000 – two and a half times his target – has been donated to the fundraising of Fulham polar hero Henry Worsley, who died last week just short of completing his courageous 1,000-mile solo trek across the Antarctic.

Lieutenant Colonel Worsley died attempting the first unaided solo crossing of the Antarctic to mark the centenary of Sir Ernest Shackleton's attempted crossing of the continent.

He died on January 24, after radioing for help and being airlifted off the ice on Day 70 of his trek, on January 22. At the time he had collected £108,000 for the Endeavour Fund – exceeding his £100,000 target. But many who have been moved by his tragic death have now boosted the fundraising to £247,000.

Lt Col Worsley's intention was to follow in the spirit of his hero Shackleton and raise money for the Endeavour Fund, which was set up to help injured servicemen and women by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry.

In contrast to a 1997 solo crossing by Børge Ousland, the former Army officer travelled without a kite to help pull his 150-kilogram sledge.

He arrived at his starting point, Berkner Island, on November 13, with the aim of completing his journey in 80 days. He covered 913 miles in 69 days and had only 30 miles to go.

However, he had to spend days 70 and 71 in his tent suffering from exhaustion and severe dehydra-

TURN TO PAGE 3

■ GREEN FOR GO: Green-fingered enthusiasts in Hammersmith and Shepherd's Bush are doing their bit for Capital Clean-up, the mayor Boris Johnson's campaign to help Londoners get together to spruce up their city. The initiative is part of his wider Team London volunteering programme and is supported by McDonald's. You can apply for Capital Clean-up grants and kits for summer projects and events. The application period closes on March 14. Last summer's Capital Clean-up ran from May to September 2015. 230 events took place and more than 4,600 volunteers joined in. 3,867 bags of rubbish were collected

INSIDE

Court blow for equality campaign
PAGE 5

Food waste crusader honoured
PAGE 7

Heritage appeal to rock stars
PAGE 10

Specialists in used
Herman Miller Aerons chairs
LONDONAERONS.CO.UK
Office Hours - 0207 639 7771 (option 1)
Weekends or Evenings - 07973 540 289

We buy Herman Miller Aeron Chairs
London's best buyer of Aeron chairs
1-1000+ chairs wanted!
Any condition Good, Bad or Broken
We will buy ANY Aeron chair
(We also buy any other quality office chairs and furniture)

London leads drive for electric cars

THE Mayor of London and the Chair of London Councils' Transport and Environment Committee have welcomed £13million of new funding to encourage the greater use of electric and ultra-low emission vehicles.

By 2020 Londoners are expected to own as many as 70,000 ultra-low emission vehicles and it is planned that the new funding will be particularly targeted at providing more electric charging points in residential areas of the city.

This latest funding announcement forms part of a Government scheme called Go Ultra Low Cities that aims to make the use of electric and sustainable vehicles easier. The mayor has long supported the use of electric vehicles and in the capital drivers who use them qualify for a 100 per cent discount on the congestion charge and many boroughs support them by providing free parking.

Sales of ultra-low emission vehicles are higher in London than anywhere else in the UK. The joint bid by the GLA, Transport for London and London's boroughs made a clear case to government that having a capital city

driving demand for that technology benefits the entire country. A new zero emission-capable taxi has secured £300million of investment and jobs in Coventry and independent economic assessments show that the use of ultra-low emission vehicles in London could benefit the UK by up to £230million a year by 2050.

London Mayor Boris Johnson, said: "We have some extremely exciting strategies in place to encourage the greater use of ultra-low emission vehicles in London and this is a key component of our work to improve air quality. This funding is very welcome as it will help provide the infrastructure necessary to encourage even more Londoners to use ultra-low emission vehicles."

Plans for the use of the new funding are still being finalised but the bid submitted to government proposed that London will:

■ Develop a new partnership between the Mayor's Office, TfL and London's boroughs to provide more charging points in residential areas that will help Londoners without off-street parking. In outer London 33 per cent of households have no access to off-street parking and this rises to 46 per cent in inner London.

■ Work with car clubs to explore the electrification of their fleet. The car club industry has committed to 50 per cent of their vehicles being electric within ten years.

■ Strengthen its plans for rapid charging hubs across the capital, to meet the needs of commercial operators including taxis, private hire and delivery vans. TfL has a target of having 300 rapid chargers in the capital by 2020.

■ Create eight 'neighbourhoods of the future' to help businesses and residents prioritise the use of ultra-low emission vehicles.

Cllr Julian Bell, chair of London Councils' transport and environment committee and leader of the London Borough of Ealing, also welcomed the announcement and said: "It is fantastic news that London has successfully made the case for a £13million investment in ultra-low emissions vehicles in the capital, which have the potential to improve air quality and therefore make a real difference to people's health. London Councils is committed to supporting the boroughs in making ultra-low emissions vehicles more accessible, as they are responsible for 95 per cent of the road network in London and have an in-depth understanding of their local communities."

London's air quality has improved significantly in recent years but with 80 per cent of all journeys made by road, increasing the use of ultra-low emission vehicles is an important part of that work. The new funding adds to London's efforts to do so, which include:

■ Creating te world's first Ultra Low Emission Zone, which will come into force in 2020. This is expected to almost halve emissions of nitrogen oxide (NOx) and particulate matter (PM10) from vehicle exhausts in central London.

■ Amending the congestion charge discount so only the cleanest vehicles are incentivised.

■ Continuing to expand the world's largest green bus fleet, with a commitment for 3,000 hybrid-buses and 300 zero emission single deck buses by 2020.

■ Commitments to expand the public sector ultra-low emission vehicle fleet, including London Fire Brigade's £600,000 plan for its support cars to be electric vehicle.

■ A new Low Emission Commercial Vehicle Programme to accelerate development and uptake of low emission commercial vehicles and a new approach to install rapid charging hubs across the capital to meet commercial operators' needs.

■ Continuing to work with the private sector to expand public charge point provision across the capital.

CMN

Part of Capital Media Newspapers Limited

The London Weekly News Group
Westminster & Pimlico News
(Established 1857)
Kensington & Chelsea News
(Established 1857 & 1869)
Fulham Chronicle
(Established 1888)
Hammersmith Chronicle
(Established 2015)
Shepherd's Bush Chronicle
(Established 2015)
London Weekly News
(Established 2014)

DIRECTORS
Karen Sheppard
0208 768 4903
Philip Evans (Editor)
07796 951991
Hannah Walker
020 883 59721

Editorial email
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk
Assistant Editor Tim Dixon 01297 446161
News Editor Geoff Baker 07864 992274
Reporter Jack Dixon 07973 565078
Sport - Tony MacDonald 07711 169427
Advertising
Trades/
Services 0208 768 4920/22
Recruitment: 0208 768 4923/24
Motors 0208 768 4925/31
Property 0208 768 4925/31
Leisure/Ents 0208 768 4921
Retail Advertising Display Manager
Garry Cole 0208 768 4926
Classified and Customer Service Manager
Candy Brown 0208 768 4919
Distribution
Hayley Bright 020 8768 4916

LWN

contacting YOUR COUNCIL

Hammersmith & Fulham

Adult social care
0845 313 3935
Benefits
020 8753 6681
Cleaner Greener hotline
020 8753 1100 - cleaner.greener@lbhf.gov.uk<mailto:cleaner.greener@lbhf.gov.uk
Council tax
020 8753 6681
Electoral services
020 8753 4466
electoral.services@lbhf.gov.uk<mailto:electoral.services@lbhf.gov.uk
Environment
020 8753 1081
Family information service
020 8753 2450
fis@lbhf.gov.uk<mailto:fis@lbhf.gov.uk
Housing
0845 313 3935
Libraries
020 7361 3610
libraries@lbhf.gov.uk<mailto:libraries@lbhf.gov.uk
Parking control
020 7371 5678
parking@lbhf.gov.uk<mailto:parking@lbhf.gov.uk
Parking permits
020 8753 6681
parkingpermits@lbhf.gov.uk<mailto:parkingpermits@lbhf.gov.uk
Planning
020 8748 3020
planning@lbhf.gov.uk<mailto:planning@lbhf.gov.uk
Register Office
020 8753 2140
registeroffice@lbhf.gov.uk<mailto:registeroffice@lbhf.gov.uk
Report it
020 8753 1100
Switchboard
020 8748 3020

City of Westminster

Adult Services
020 7641 2500
Libraries
020 7641 6200
Benefits
0800 072 0042
Parking
020 7823 4567
Children's Services
020 7641 4000
Planning
020 7641 6500
Council Tax
0845 302 3400
Licensing
020 7641 6500
Housing
020 7641 1000
Births, deaths and marriages
020 7641 7500
Elections
020 7641 7500
Household recycling, waste and rubbish
020 7641 2000
Business line
General Enquiries
020 7641 7000
020 7641 6000
Westminster City Hall
64 Victoria Street
London
SW1E 6QP

Kensington & Chelsea

Accessible Transport
020 7361 2390
accessible.transport@rbkc.gov.uk
Arts & Leisure
020 7361 3003
artsandleisure@rbkc.gov.uk
Benefits
020 7361 3006
benefits@rbkc.gov.uk
Council Tax
020 7361 3005
counciltax@rbkc.gov.uk
Electoral Services
020 7361 3444
elect@rbkc.gov.uk
Education
020 7361 3009
education@rbkc.gov.uk
Environmental Health
020 7361 3002
environmentalhealth@rbkc.gov.uk
Family Information Services
0207 361 3302
fis@rbkc.gov.uk
Housing
020 7361 3008
housing@rbkc.gov.uk
Land Charges
020 7361 3554
Libraries
020 7361 3010
information@rbkc.gov.uk
Parking - general enquiries
020 7361 3004
parking@rbkc.gov.uk
Parking - penalty charges
020 7361 4383
parking@rbkc.gov.uk
Parking - permit (new applications)
020 7361 4381
residentparking@rbkc.gov.uk
Parking - permit (renewals)
020 7361 3019
residentparking@rbkc.gov.uk
Patient Advice & Liaison Service
020 8962 4547
Planning
020 7361 3012
planning@rbkc.gov.uk
Registrars
020 7361 4100
chelsea.registeroffice@rbkc.gov.uk
Streetline
020 7361 3001
streetline@rbkc.gov.uk
Social Services
020 7361 3013
socialservices@rbkc.gov.uk

Tell Us Once
0207 361 3940

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER AND PIMLICO

Calls for crackdown on aggressive beggars targeting West End streets

FROM PAGE 1

in the West End last week.

"The begging problem in Soho is truly scary now, it is out of control," she said.

"It's a frightening situation because there are so many beggars and their behaviour is getting worse. Many of them are increasingly aggressive."

She added: "A new problem is the number of East Europeans who are trying to pretend that they are legitimate *Big Issue* sellers – they are very intimidating and they put the fear of God in you, especially as there appear to be no policemen around.

"I felt very threatened last week when one of these fake *Big Issue* sellers confronted me in Shaftesbury Avenue, demanding money.

"I could tell he was a fake because even though he was carrying a pile of *Big Issues*, he was not wearing the red tabard and he had no ID badge. I told him to go away but he would not leave me alone; he was right in my face, looking very nasty and hassling me to buy the magazine.

"Half an hour later I was in a nearby cafe when another of these fakes came in and tried to steal another woman's purse. She had put it down on the table, he put his magazines on top of the purse and then attempted to pick up the pile and make off with her purse.

"Fortunately, she raised the alarm, grabbed her purse back and he ran out."

She added: "The authorities need to be taking urgent action over the begging crisis and make West End pavements safe again. It is horrendous all around theatreland and it's very frightening for women on their own because a lot of these characters don't give up and you just have to run away from them.

"There's a spot in Shaftesbury Avenue where two beggars appear to have set up some sort of camp, with a double mattress sprawled out right across the pavement, so that the only safe way around them is to get into the road.

"It is outrageous that in a modern city like London that all this is going on. Something has to be done to give more proper shelter for the homeless and tougher policing for those who are not homeless but who are just trying it on."

Attitudes towards begging are divided across the capital. Last year, Kensington and Chelsea council excited controversy with a poster campaign that advised the public not to give money to those begging on the streets as doing so may "contribute to someone's early death".

The council poster claimed that those begging are "likely to spend the money on drugs and alcohol".

But protests followed from the public and charities, who said the decision to give money is a personal one and that those begging are nonetheless vulnerable.

The charity for the homeless, Crisis, said it found a fairly high proportion of single homeless people had previously suffered from drug or alcohol dependency, at around 48 per cent and 46 per cent respectively, but that this is often a result of their efforts to cope with the trauma of homelessness itself.

The charity said: "Whether or not people give money to beggars is a personal decision. People who beg are often some of the most vulnerable in our society. They may be homeless or struggling with extreme poverty. And yes, some will have problems with addiction – often as a result of the trauma of homelessness itself. We know from our own clients how important a simple act of kindness can be to those in desperate circumstances, yet by far the most important thing is that people can get the dedicated support they need to escape the streets for good.

"The number of people sleeping on the streets is rising. Yet rather than get the help they need, homeless people who ask their councils for help are often turned away – cold, desperate and forgotten.

"We urgently need a change in the law so that no one is forced to sleep rough, and we urge the public to support our No One Turned Away campaign to help make sure this happens."

Commenting on the increasing begging problem in and around Soho, a spokesperson for Westminster City Council said: "If a member of the public feels harassed, alarmed or distressed by a beggar they should report it to the Metropolitan police and give the location of the offence.

"Through our outreach services we offer help and assistance to those beggars who are homeless and want the opportunity to change their lives.

"*The Big Issue* have a code of conduct which they expect sellers to abide by. Any suspicious activity should be reported directly to them so that they can investigate."

■ **HOMELESS APPEAL: Ed Sheeran backs the Crisis campaign, called No One Turned Away**

Homelessness crisis deepens

AFTER years of declining trends, all forms of homelessness have risen due to the shortage of housing and ongoing effects of the economic recession combined with government policies – particularly reforms and cuts to housing benefit, says the charity Crisis.

■ Independent research carried out for Crisis and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation shows that homelessness is likely to increase further still.

■ Almost one in ten people say they have been homeless at some point, with a fifth of these people saying it happened in the last five years.

■ Rough sleeping has risen. Government street counts and estimates give a snapshot of the national situation. In 2014 they estimated around 2,744 people sleep rough on any one night across England, a rise of 55 per cent on 2010. But this is only a snapshot, the actual figures are likely to be much higher.

■ 7,581 people slept rough at some point in London during 2014/15, a 16 per cent rise on the previous year, and more than double the figure of 3,673 in 2009/10.

Pictured: Shaftesbury Avenue

Developers will rethink tower plan

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

DEVELOPERS behind a scheme for a 72-storey skyscraper in Paddington are to review and revise their plans following complaints from residents and campaigners.

Paddington Place, labelled the "skinny Shard" and the "Paddington Pole", was originally planned to be 254-metres high, which would have made it the fourth-tallest building in London.

However, the development faced criticism from residents and campaign groups such as Historic England and The Victorian Society about its height and environmental impact on the area.

On Saturday, Irvine Sellar, the man behind the Shard, Great Western Developments and Westminster City Council agreed to revise the plans in light of the concerns.

The scheme seeks to create a new gateway for the station and St Mary's Hospital. The plans also allow for further improvements to the Network Rail station, provide a completely new Bakerloo tube station, offices, restaurants and new public piazzas, as well as a significant residential content.

GWD's decision means that the application will now not be considered at the Westminster City Council planning committee on March 8. GWD, Sellar and Westminster said they "look forward to sharing the revised proposals very shortly".

Whilst GWD's proposal has secured the support of many key stakeholders including Network Rail, Transport for London, St Mary's Hospital, NHS (London) and the GLA, there were concerns amongst local people around the height and impact of the tower element of the scheme on the local area. This decision will allow for a further review of elements of the proposed development including its height. Sellar and GWD, working closely with the Westminster council, will bring forward an amended scheme that will still deliver "all the substantial benefits, including the significant investment in infrastructure and social housing".

The leader of Westminster City Council, councillor Philippa Roe, said: "I am delighted that we have been able to work together with the developer, this is a very positive step and will allow time for us all to bring forward a development that enjoys broader community support and that we jointly believe will deliver enormous benefits to Westminster and London. We remain committed to ensuring that all the benefits of the original scheme are retained in the revised plans.

"Our Paddington opportunity area makes up the largest regeneration area within Westminster and is a site of strategic importance in London. This kind of major investment in the city is vital to provide an environment where business can thrive, creating new jobs to help people achieve their aspirations and to tackle the blight of unemployment. Schemes such as this act as a catalyst for additional investment and will really kick start and boost regeneration in that area.

"We will always seek to strike the right balance between supporting successful schemes in Westminster, which will really benefit local people, London and the country for generations to come with the impact that development can have on existing communities."

■ NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS: Westminster Abbey Choir School

Delighted inspectors sing the praises of abbey choir school

WESTMINSTER Abbey Choir School has been given a glowing report by the Independent Schools Inspectorate.

The inspectors, who visited the school in November last year, said the school was "highly successful in fulfilling its role of educating and caring for the boy choristers and in meeting its aim to help them to develop as confident, well-rounded individuals."

The report went on: "The school balances its commitment to developing the pupils' musical talents with the demand of an academic curriculum extremely well, whilst at the same time providing pupils with an excellent range of extra-curricular activities and excellent teaching.

"The pupils achieve high academic standards and exceptional qualities of choral and instrumental musicianship.

"Their extensive involvement with the Abbey contributes strongly to their excellent spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The pupils are well-informed individuals who develop an innate sense of how to behave in the most appropriate manner in different situations.

"Pupils from different ethnic backgrounds live and work together harmoniously. As choristers they make an outstanding contribution to the local, national and global communities."

The inspectors also noted that the school had excellent links with parents who were "highly delighted" with the quality of education and were unanimous in their praise for the way the school is led and managed.

The Dean of Westminster, the Very Reverend Dr John Hall, said: "We are very proud of Westminster Abbey Choir School and delighted to have this confirmation of its exceptionally high achievements under the inspiring leadership of the headmaster Jonathan Milton. The pupils, all of whom serve as Abbey choristers, receive an outstanding musical and general education and the extraordinary opportunity of being part of the Abbey community and participating in occasions of world-wide significance."

Mr Milton said: "We are delighted that the inspectors were able to see and acknowledge the outstanding achievements of the choristers here. That each aspect of the school's work was given the highest 'excellent' rating is a mark of the incredible all-round experience it is to be a chorister of Westminster Abbey.

"Furthermore, it is testimony to the dedication of the Choir School staff and the delightful enthusiasm and positive energy of the boys. We are all very proud."

The school says: "The purpose-built school, set in the heart of the Abbey precincts, offers a complete preparatory school boarding education but tailored precisely to the needs of choristers. Academic lessons, musical tuition, sports, activities and games are carefully arranged around the boys' various singing commitments to offer a unique educational experience.

"The Choir School provides a complete academic education tailored around the choristers' singing routine. Music lies at the heart of the school, but equally important is the breadth of the curriculum. Classes are arranged in the traditional year groups, so they are very small indeed – normally just six to eight boys in a class, allowing plenty of individual attention and an imaginative approach.

"Expectations are high and boys are prepared for some of the most academically selective senior schools, though never at the expense of nurturing the individual.

"Choristers have a natural capacity to learn and this lies at the heart of the school's educational approach. Facilities are excellent and good use is made of local amenities for a wide range of activities offered by the school."

■ LANDMARK LOCATION: Westminster Abbey

the Fish Bowl ltd
PET SUPPLIES

133 Dawes Road
London
SW6 7EA
020 7385 6005

- Leading Brand Pet Foods Royal Canin and James Wellbeloved
- Pet Accessories
- 65 Cold Water and Marine Fish Tanks
- Stockist for Juwel Fish Tanks

Opening Times

Sunday:	CLOSED
Monday:	10:00am - 6:00pm
Tuesday:	10:00am - 6:00pm
Wednesday:	10:00am - 6:00pm
Thursday:	CLOSED
Friday:	10:00am - 6:00pm
Saturday:	10:00am - 6:00pm

020 7385 6005

Heterosexual couple lose their high court challenge over right to a civil partnership

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A HETEROSEXUAL couple from west London who want to enter into a civil partnership rather than marry have lost a challenge at the High Court.

Rebecca Steinfeld and Charles Keidan, who are both academics and live in Hammersmith, argued that they are being discriminated against.

Dr Steinfeld, 34, and Mr Keidan, 39, who have been in a committed relationship since November 2010 and have an eight-month-old baby, want to secure legal recognition of that relationship through a civil partnership.

But the Civil Partnership Act 2004 stipulates that only same-sex couples are eligible.

The couple claimed the Government's position on civil partnerships is "incompatible with equality law".

Mrs Justice Andrews, sitting in London, dismissed their judicial review action on Friday, but gave them permission to take their case on to the Court of Appeal because the case raised issues of "wider importance".

After the ruling, Dr Steinfeld said: "We made this claim because the UK Government is barring us, and many thousands of opposite-sex couples like us, from the choice of forming a civil partnership, and we want this to change."

She said: "We don't think there is sufficient justification for stopping us or other opposite-sex couples from forming civil partnerships.

"Unfortunately, the judge has concluded otherwise."

Dr Steinfeld, who was present in court with her partner to hear Mrs Justice Andrews announce her decision, said they wished to go to the Court of Appeal to challenge the judge's decision on behalf of themselves and more than 36,000 people who signed their petition "calling for civil partnership equality".

Mr Keidan said it was "now time for Parliament to demonstrate its commitment to creating a level playing field for all its citizens by opening up civil partnerships to same-sex and opposite-sex couples alike".

At the centre of the case was Section 1 of the 2004 Act which requires that civil partners be "two people of the same sex". The couple had asked the judge to grant a declaration that Section 1 is "incompatible" with rights under the Human Rights Act 1998.

During the recent hearing of the case, their QC, Karon Monaghan, said the Education Secretary, who has "responsibility for 'equalities' within Government", had identified "no good grounds for failing to permit opposite-sex couples to enter civil partnerships".

■ **RULING: Charles Keidan and Rebecca Steinfeld, from Hammersmith, at the High Court**

But Dan Squires, counsel for the Education Secretary, said a decision had been taken by the Government to wait a period of time "to see how extending marriage to same-sex couples impacts upon civil partnerships before reaching a final decision on the future of civil partnerships, and has decided that it is not necessary to undertake the costly and complex exercise of extending civil partnerships in the interim where they may be abolished or phased out in a few years".

Avoiding "unnecessary costs and disruption pending a final decision on civil partnerships is obviously a legitimate aim".

Explaining her ruling, Mrs Justice Andrews said she did "not accept" that the enactment of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 had caused restrictions under the Civil Partnership Act on opposite-sex couples entering into a civil partnership "to become unlawful".

Those provisions had "not become incompatible" with Articles 14 and 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights – articles which prohibit discrimination and protect the right to respect for family and private life – "just because same-sex couples now have two routes to achieving legal recognition of their relationship by the state and opposite-sex couples continue to have only one".

The judge said: "By deciding to wait until it is in a better position to evaluate the impact of the 2013 Act on civil partnerships before taking any legislative steps, against a background where there is no consensus either domestically or within Europe as to the appropriate course to take, the Government is acting well within the ambit of discretion afforded to it with regard to the regulation of social matters.

"Opposite-sex couples are not disadvantaged by the hiatus, because they can achieve exactly the same recognition of their relationship and the same rights, benefits and protections by getting married, as they always could."

This is a sad defeat for love and equality... I hope that Charles and Rebecca will appeal this judgement

Peter Tatchell, human rights campaigner

She concluded: "The Government's decision to wait and see serves the legitimate aim of avoiding the unnecessary disruption and the waste of time and money that plunging into a programme of legislative reform without waiting is likely to produce. Consequently, this claim for judicial review fails."

Mrs Justice Andrews said the couple have "deep-rooted and genuine ideological objections to the institution of marriage, based upon what they consider to be its historically patriarchal nature".

She said: "The claimants feel that it is unfair that a route to state recognition of their relationship which is open to a same-sex couple with exactly the same deeply held objections to marriage as theirs remains unavailable to them simply because they are heterosexual, despite the fact that same-sex couples who wish to marry can now do so.

"No doubt there will be many people who sympathise with that point of view. However, unfairness does not necessarily equate to incompatibility with the Convention."

LGBT and human rights campaigner Peter Tatchell, who has championed the case for equal civil partnerships for more than a decade, said: "This is a sad defeat for love and equality.

"It will be a huge disappointment to the thousands of heterosexual couples who would like to have a civil partnership."

He said: "This legal case was always about the simple quest to end discrimination and ensure equality for all. I hope Charles and Rebecca will appeal this judgment and that justice will prevail in the end."

Ava Lee, campaign manager of the Equal Civil Partnership campaign, said it was now hoped that the Government "will reconsider its position on civil partnerships and offer the three million cohabiting couples in the UK an additional option for celebrating and cementing their relationships, and provide their 1.9 million dependent children with the same level of security offered to the children of married parents".

No need for councillors to take 'pay' cut: royal borough

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

KENSINGTON and Chelsea council has revealed that it will not be following the example of nearby Hammersmith and Fulham councillors who are taking a 10 per cent "pay" cut to help ease the pressure on the cash-strapped authority's budget.

Senior councillors at Hammersmith and Fulham have volunteered to take cuts in their allowances by up to £3,500, in order to enable the authority's coming freeze on council tax.

"We have asked councillors to play their part and have reduced allowances by 10 per cent, becoming the first administration to ever cut councillors' pay," said Hammersmith and Fulhamn council leader Stephen Cowan.

All councillors are paid an allowance for serving on the authority. The basic allowance in Hammersmith and Fulham is currently £8,940.

This will be frozen for the coming budgetary year – despite a recommendation by the Independent Remunerator that it should be increased to £10,703.

But in the neighbouring royal borough of Kensington and Chelsea, where senior councillors' allowances are up to £23,000 more and the basic allowance is £10,810, the council says members will not be taking any hit in their wallets as there is no need.

Under Hammersmith and Fulham's new deal, the council will save £14,296 by reducing senior councillors' pay.

The new allowances on the Labour-controlled council are: leader £32,186.70, deputy leader £26,816.40, cabinet members £21,454.20, chairs of committees £5,564.70, leader of the opposition £16,086.60.

On the Conservative-controlled Kensington and Chelsea council the allowances are: leader £55,317, deputy leader £36,772, cabinet members £35,772, chairs of committees £15,655, leader of the opposition £20,497.

Hammersmith and Fulham Council is to save a further £600,000 by axing seven highly-paid staff posts; the executive director of finance and corporate services, the director of communications and policy, the executive director of housing services, the executive director of environment and leisure services, the deputy director of finance, the director for customer and business development and the executive director for transport and technical services.

But Kensington and Chelsea council says it will not be making any senior staff cuts and there will be no reductions in councillors' allowances, because of its expertise in balancing its budget.

A Kensington and Chelsea council spokesman said: "As a consequence of careful financial stewardship the council faces no shortfall in its budget and all discussions have therefore been on how to continue to provide excellent services for the borough's residents."

■ HONOURED: Market research guru and charity stalwart Carole Stone was made a CBE by Prince Charles at an investiture in Buckingham Palace on Friday. Former BBC radio producer Ms Stone, who lives with her husband, veteran TV journalist Richard Lindley, in Gospel Oak, Camden, founded the YouGovStone think-tank, part of market research firm YouGov, a global panel of over 5,000 leaders in their professional fields. She is also a patron of several charities, including mental health charity SANE.

Prison terms for terrorist sympathisers

A MUSLIM convert has been jailed for trying to drum up support for Islamic State outside Topshop in Oxford Street.

Ginger-bearded Ibrahim Anderson, 38, along with Shah Jahan Khan, 63, were among a group which set up a stall near the flagship fashion store on the afternoon of August 9, 2014.

The pair, from Luton, Bedfordshire, denied inviting support for a proscribed organisation and Anderson also denied possessing information likely to be useful to a terrorist on December 16, 2014.

A jury deliberated for eight hours before finding them guilty at the Old Bailey last week.

Sentencing on Friday, Judge Stephen Kramer QC jailed Anderson for three years and Khan for two years.

The judge said their activities carried danger that young people may be "lured" to their deaths in Iraq and Syria.

The court heard that motor mechanic and father of five Anderson has previous convictions for assault and possessing an imitation firearm while Khan, a driving instructor, was previously of good character.

Prosecutor Mark Seymour had told jurors the defendants spent two-and-a-half hours speaking to passers-by and distributing a leaflet on the "so-called Caliphate" which had been re-established earlier that summer.

He said: "These defendants, who both played their part as members of the group which invited support for IS in Oxford Street on August 9, 2014, would have been well aware that this is what they were doing."

When the witnesses challenged their point of view, they were told to "go and die", the court heard.

The defendants were arrested after two members of the public took photographs of them and reported their behaviour to police.

Anderson's home was later searched and a mini notebook computer was seized which contained three images that "formed part of a set of instructions for travel to Syria to support jihad", the prosecutor said.

The motor mechanic, who represented himself in court, appealed to jurors to see past the news and "see who I really am – a devoted father to my family".

He said he only wanted to practise his religion and exercise his freedom of speech, adding: "I have been brave enough to come and fight my corner because I know I am innocent and have done nothing wrong."

Neither defendants reacted as they were sent down to begin their sentences.

Afterwards, Commander Dean Haydon, of the Met's Counter Terrorism Command, said: "The sentencing shows that supporting a terrorist organisation even through the distribution of propaganda will not be tolerated."

Court hears how police smashed sex slave racket

A CHELSEA man has been jailed for five years after police smashed a sex slave ring in Kensington in which victims were forced to work off a "debt" by providing £30,000-worth of sexual services.

Hamall Amiri, 27, a UK national of the King's Road, was jailed for controlling prostitution and trafficking for sexual exploitation.

He and two others were convicted of trafficking 13 Thai nationals into the UK and sexually exploiting them.

Rashid Ahmed, 68, of Blackberry Farm Close, Hounslow was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for controlling prostitution and trafficking, along with Nattakarn Budcha, a 36-year-old female Thai national of Porter Street, Westminster.

At Southwark Crown Court last month they were also each handed Slavery and Trafficking Prevention Orders under the Modern Slavery Act 2015, preventing them engaging in activities linked to trafficking and prostitution.

The victims, women and transgender Thais, told the court that they were "recruited" in Thailand and being brought to London.

On arrival in the UK the victims had their mobile phones and official papers taken from them.

Speaking little or no English, the victims were still largely unsuspecting at this stage.

They were taken to addresses controlled by the defendants in the Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea, where they were forced to work long hours with no choice but to hand over most of their earnings.

When the victims became aware that they were in the UK illegally, the defendants began to use exposure to the UK authorities as a threat to encourage them to remain compliant.

The victims were each entered into a large debt of more than £30,000, to be paid to the defendants by providing sexual services.

They were also forced to fund their accommodation costs and in some cases they were convinced to have unprotected sex with clients in order to increase their popularity on the websites run by the gang.

Detective Inspector Clare Murray, of the Organised Crime Command, said: "This has been a lengthy and complex 18-month investigation with 13 extremely vulnerable Thai nationals trafficked into the UK and forced into prostitution.

"The sentences given by Judge Tomlinson, alongside London's second Slavery and Trafficking Prevention Order, send a clear message and hopefully a deterrent to anyone thinking of taking part in this abhorrent crime.

"I would like to commend the bravery of the victims, several of whom were bought back to London to give evidence, in securing these convictions as well as the charities that provided vital support to those involved."

Ahmed and Amiri had been found guilty of the offences at Southwark Crown Court in September last year. Budcha was found guilty of controlling prostitution on the same day and convicted at a retrial in December of trafficking for sexual exploitation.

All three defendants were part of an organised gang responsible for the illegal trafficking of people into the UK, Budcha and Ahmed between 2010 and 2014 and Amiri from 2013-14.

LONDON WIDE

PM hails food waste campaigner

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A 90-YEAR-OLD Londoner who has dedicated her life to preventing food waste through her charity has been honoured by Prime Minister David Cameron.

Lotti Henley was born into an aristocratic Slovenian family and was 14 when the Second World War came. With food constantly scarce, she learnt from a young age that waste was unacceptable. With all of the carnage around them, Lotti and her sister became nurses.

When Russian troops crossed the German border, Lotti and her sister were sent to repatriation camp. They experienced intense hunger, with Lotti resorting to tying a belt around her waist to distract her from the pain.

From her experiences, Lotti was inspired to tackle any food wastage she saw, setting up a charity called Plan Zheroes and developing a unique and innovative method of distribution.

Lotti is the latest recipient of a Point of Light award, which recognises outstanding individual volunteers, people who are making a change in their community and inspiring others. Each day, someone, somewhere in the country is selected to receive the award to celebrate their remarkable achievements.

Plan Zheroes attempts to reduce food wastage by connecting organisations with a surplus of food – such as Pret A Manger – with organisations who have a shortage. Volunteers transport the food between organisations.

■ **AWARD: Lotti Henley**

Lotti has convinced more than 250 restaurants, food stores, bakeries, supermarkets and markets to donate the food that they would otherwise have thrown away, creating a network of volunteers, donors, businesses, charities and concerned individuals who want to help.

Mr Cameron said: "Lotti's personal experiences of extreme hunger have inspired her with an incredible dedication to eliminating food waste. Her passion and energy has motivated many other volunteers and organisations to come together to create Plan Zheroes; an innovative way of putting businesses with surplus food together with charities who can redistribute.

"She has helped to prevent tonnes of food from going to waste and I am delighted to recognise her as the UK's 451st Point of Light."

Aside from the volunteers that work with the charity, Lotti also inspired a design and technology consultancy company, Keytree, to create their website and surplus food map on a pro bono basis – helping to connect excess food suppliers with the organisations that can distribute it.

The Point of Light awards have been developed in partnership with the hugely successful Points of Light programme in the USA, which were first established by President George HW Bush.

More than 5,000 US Points of Light have been awarded and both President George Bush and President Barack Obama have publicly supported the partnership with Points of Light UK.

Regardless of whether it is a doctor restoring local monuments in her free time, a father teaching young people life skills, or a local musician giving a voice to lonely people, the Point of Light award honours shining examples of volunteering across the UK.

Lotti said: "I can't believe it and I don't feel worthy of this award!

"Without all the work of our amazing volunteers none of this progress could happen.

"I created the London Citizens' Greener Planet Action Team four years ago and, since then, have led and inspired a group of enthusiastic citizens to act together.

"Our first action was supporting Kensington and Chelsea council in their efforts to ban the plastic carrier bag.

"In January 2009, in partnership with Project Freesheet, we inspired Transport for London and the publishers of free newspapers to commit £400,000 to a joint publicity campaign, urging the travelling public in London to recycle their free newspapers. This campaign resulted in posters in Underground stations on London buses and advertisements in the free newspapers."

The Prime Minister makes daily announcements of the award winners in an effort to celebrate, encourage and promote volunteering and the value that it brings to the country – and reflecting his belife in the 'bigsociety' principle.

Firm fined after man hurt in Earls Court electric incident

THE world's largest temporary power generation company has been fined a total of £36,000 for failing to ensure that workers were not exposed to risk.

The company, Aggreko plc, appeared before Westminster Magistrates' Court on January 25 to plead guilty to two charges, one under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the other under the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989. It also agreed to pay the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's costs of £90,000.

The charges followed an electrical incident where a man suffered electrical burns during the fitting out of the Earls Court Exhibition Centre in preparation for the 2012 Olympic Games.

Aggreko had been appointed as the main contractor to provide a temporary electricity supply to the Exhibition Centre which was to host the Olympic volleyball tournament.

In order to carry out this work the company engaged a number of contractors, including self-employed electricians which were under their control. Part of the work involved routing electrical cables throughout the venue.

At times cable heads had to be removed to allow the cables to be routed through small gaps. This was the case when a series of cables were routed into the Thames Room, a conference space on the first floor of the centre.

The cable heads were not then reinstated, which meant that when the power supply was turned on the wiring would be live and exposed.

The court heard how on July 3, 2012 Ben Brown, an employee of Custom Rigging Services Ltd, a company with no connection with Aggreko, was working in the Thames Room on the installation of a temporary control centre for communications at the venue.

While working with a colleague they heard a loud bang close to a window. When Mr Brown checked the area a second bang was heard and there was also a bright flash. Mr Brown staggered back and collapsed.

His colleague then spotted the exposed copper ends of an electrical cable under the hem of a curtain. Mr Brown had suffered burns to his left arm and was kept in hospital overnight.

Since the accident the grip in his left hand has been restricted.

Aggreko accepted there were some deficiencies in their procedures and some failures of communication and supervision on site which, amongst other things, caused the injury.

However, the court also heard that Aggreko had a previously unblemished health and safety record, had co-operated fully with the council's investigators and had already taken steps to prevent a similar occurrence.

Cllr Tim Ahern, Kensington and Chelsea council's cabinet member for environmental health, said: "This was a very troubling case which resulted in serious injuries to a man working at Earls Court in the run-up to the London Olympics.

"Clearly it should never have happened and the company has pleaded guilty and been fined by the courts.

"We will always investigate such cases and prosecute when required."

Driverless trials use airport shuttle pods

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

SHUTTLE pods used at Heathrow Airport will be adapted to become the first driverless vehicles to be tested on London roads.

The pods, which resemble small automated train carriages, are currently being used at Heathrow Terminal 5 and will be developed to work without dedicated tracks, the UK's Transport Research Laboratory has said.

The vehicles will then be used in trials of driverless cars in Greenwich this summer as part of the Gateway project led by TRL.

A consortium of British firms, including Westfield Sportscars, Heathrow Enterprises and Oxbotica, will work together to make the pods into "fully driverless shuttles" in one of three pilots in the area.

The trial aims to assess the public's willingness to use autonomous vehicles in built-up areas, TRL said.

Professor Nick Reed, academy director at TRL and technical director for Gateway, said:

■ ON TRACK: Shuttle pods on course for London road trials

"The addition of three prominent and respected British organisations to the Gateway consortium further strengthens the UK's position as a leader in autonomous technologies.

"Each company brings a great deal of experience to the project which will prove valuable in helping us to understand how the public and industry will adapt to the use of automated vehicles in the UK Smart Mobility Living Lab test environment in Greenwich.

"If the trials prove successful, we expect these iconic vehicles to become a familiar sight in many cities around the world."

The UltraPods have been operating at Terminal 5 for nearly five years, carrying 1.5 million passengers and completed three million kilometres.

Kit car manufacturer Westfield Sportcars will be responsible for design and testing, with Heathrow Enterprises looking after software engineering and Oxford University robotics lab spin-off Oxbotica will provide mapping and sensors to ensure safety.

Julian Turner, chief executive of Westfield Sportscars said: "We're really pleased to be a part of the Gateway consortium and are looking forward to bringing our innovative, lightweight, technology to a well-known and tried and tested platform."

The £8m Gateway project (Greenwich Automated Transport Environment) has been jointly funded by Innovate UK and the industry.

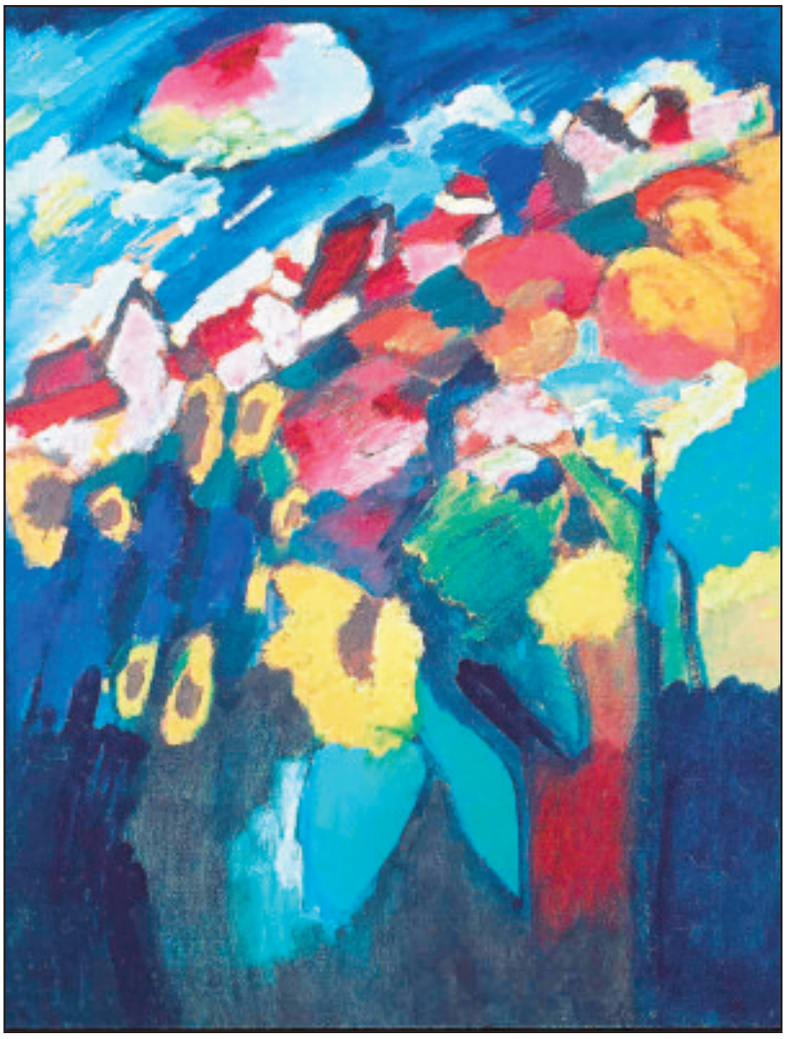
Steve Chambers, director of engineering and asset management at Heathrow, said: "The Gateway project is a fantastic opportunity to build upon the Heathrow pod concept, our unique zero-emission transport system between Terminal 5 and business car park, which has already removed 70,000 bus journeys a year from Heathrow roads and the equivalent of 100 tonnes of CO2 a year."

WEST2JEWELLERS & PAWNBROKERS

No.1 Jewellers

Pawnbrokers very competitive rates.
Repairs all types.
We buy & sell secondhand watches & jewellery

191 Edgeware Rd London
W2 1ET
020 7262 1521
www.west2jewellers.co.uk
west2jewellers@yahoo.co.uk



■ RIOT OF COLOUR: Wassily Kandinsky's Murnau The Garden II, 1910, which features in an exhibition called Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse, a the Royal Academy of Arts in Piccadilly

New exhibition showcases artists' passion for gardens

A MAJOR exhibition examining how gardens were depicted by the acclaimed artist Claude Monet and his contemporaries has opened in London.

Devoting a quarter of the space to Monet's work, the show – *Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse* – at the Royal Academy of Arts in Piccadilly, positions him as the most important painter of gardens in the Modern period.

Included are several of his water lily paintings, as well the artist's horticultural books and journals and receipts that document his plant purchases.

Works by Edouard Manet, Camille Pissarro, Paul Cézanne, John Singer Sargent, Paul Klee, Vincent van Gogh, Gustav Klimt and Wassily Kandinsky also feature, representing the multiplicity of approaches to the genre.

Writing about the exhibition for *The Guardian*, Jonathan Jones enthuses: "While for some the garden acted a visual utopia for others it was a space to commemorate experiences of loss, or as a means by which

■ NATURAL WORLD: Claude Monet, Lady in the Garden, 1867

to experiment with abstract colour theory and decorative design.

"Long before Monet started to create his own famous garden, he already loved to paint them.

"Men and women meet in his early garden scenes, nature kindling desire as it had in pastoral paintings since the Renaissance. Renoir's gardens are even lusher, while Camille Pissarro sees them in a sadder, more sombre light. He notices the servants working on vegetable patches.

The exhibition opened on Saturday and runs until April 20.

Don't miss out! Pensioners urged to make sure they're getting benefits they deserve

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

PENSIONERS in the capital are being urged to check they are receiving all the benefits they are entitled to after it emerged that one in six older Londoners are probably living in poverty.

London Mayor Boris Johnson is backing the calls as part of this year's Know Your Rights campaign, which is run in partnership with Age UK London,

The Greater London Authority estimates that around 200,000 older Londoners are living in poverty and one in three are missing out on Pension Credit worth an average of £23 a week, or £1,200 a year, simply because they are unaware they are eligible for it, or because they feel too embarrassed to make a claim.

The mayor says this is money that can make a real difference when it comes to being able to heat their homes during the winter months and budgeting for the weekly food shop.

■ **SUPPORT: London pensioners are being encouraged to claim the benefits to which they are entitled**

Although the number of pensioners living in poverty in the capital has fallen by 100,000 in the last decade, older people in London are much more likely to be living in material deprivation than anywhere else in the country. Nearly three times the proportion of pensioners living in inner London are unable to afford basics like having a warm winter coat, being able to keep their home damp free and having a regular haircut.

The Know Your Rights campaign last year helped pensioners to claim an estimated £1.2 million in benefits that would have otherwise gone unclaimed. The campaign aims to ensure older Londoners don't miss out on the £470 million worth of benefits not being claimed each year, including Pension Credit and other benefits they could be eligible for.

Mr Johnson, said: "It is vital that older Londoners get all the support they are entitled to including Pension Credit, a benefit that will make a big difference to their lives, particularly during the cold winter months. I urge all pensioners across the capital to visit or call their local Age UK centre to seek advice and ensure they get all the benefits and support that they are eligible for."

Launching this year's campaign at Age UK's Romford Hub, the Deputy Mayor of London, Roger Evans, said: "It is sad that an estimated 200,000 older Londoners could be struggling to pay for basic items like food and heating because they do not know what benefits they can claim.

"The Know Your Rights campaign has an army of people ready to help pensioners to get the support they are entitled to, so get on the phone now to Age UK and look out for information at GP surgeries and libraries."

Chief executive of Age UK London, Samantha Mauger, said: "We can't accept the possibility of 200,000 older Londoners potentially struggling to pay their bills or having to choose between food and fuel. It is important that older Londoners ensure that they claim the benefits they are entitled to, many still do not.

"Age UK London welcomes the Know Your Rights campaign and we urge older Londoners to contact their local Age UKs and ensure they get advice on what benefits they are entitled to receive."

Older Londoners can call Age UK, or contact their local Citizens Advice Bureaux for advice about benefits and other support they might be able to claim. The Age UK advice line is 0800 169 2081 and they are hosting information and advice sessions at participating local Age UK centres around the capital from now until the end of April.

PENSION CREDIT

PENSION Credit is an income-related benefit that comes in two parts and you may be eligible for one or both:

■ **Guarantee Credit** tops up your weekly income to a guaranteed minimum level

■ **Savings Credit** is extra money if you've got some savings or your income is higher than the basic State Pension

■ About four million older people are entitled to Pension Credit, yet about one in three of those eligible are still not claiming it.

YOU could be eligible for Pension Credit if you are a single pensioner and your pension is less than £151.20, or if you are a couple and your joint pension is less than £230.85.

THOSE entitled to claim Pension Credit and other benefits may also be entitled to additional financial help with their fuel bills, including:

■ The Warm Home Discount Scheme, worth £140 a year

■ Cold Weather Payment of £25 per year

■ Discounts on their energy bills, or a reduced energy tariff

UNDER THE WESTWAY

Westway Trust Chief Executive Angela McConville discusses the ways in which the trust is helping fledgling businesses to flourish

THE Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea is one of the most enterprising places in London.

So many businesses want to make their homes here that there is a real shortage of space, with office availability lower than in the West End.

As house prices climb and landlords see opportunities to turn offices into houses this will only get worse and it's estimated that there is a need for an extra 500,000 square feet of business premises in the next 15 years.

We see evidence of this ourselves on the Westway estate when any shop or office space becomes available and is immediately snapped up by those wanting to make their mark on the area. Since Christmas we've already welcomed two more local business owners to the Portobello Green Arcade, wonderful additions to the internationally renowned companies making the Arcade their home.

These are all signs of an incredibly vibrant enterprise scene in the area. In particular music, fashion and creative businesses thrive here, with around 400 independent music studios and four major record labels based in the borough.

However, a report in 2013 found that 1,200 businesses could be forced out of the area if more isn't done to protect the spaces they work in. There is also a real shortage of the kinds of spaces new businesses need – incubator spaces, small shop units, spaces available with short leases, co-working offices and temporary spaces – the kinds of low-risk accommodation that allows new businesses to experiment and show their ideas to customers without having to make big investments that could cripple them before they get started.

At Westway Trust we are creating an environment where small, artisan and start-up businesses can survive, serving our mission to deliver economic advantage to the area.

Building on our work so far to deliver small affordable workspaces, studios, retail and office spaces, one aspect of that will be the animation of the Thorpe Close stretch of the estate, turning what is for large parts of the week a fairly dull stretch of car parking between Ladbroke Grove and Portobello Road into a thriving space.

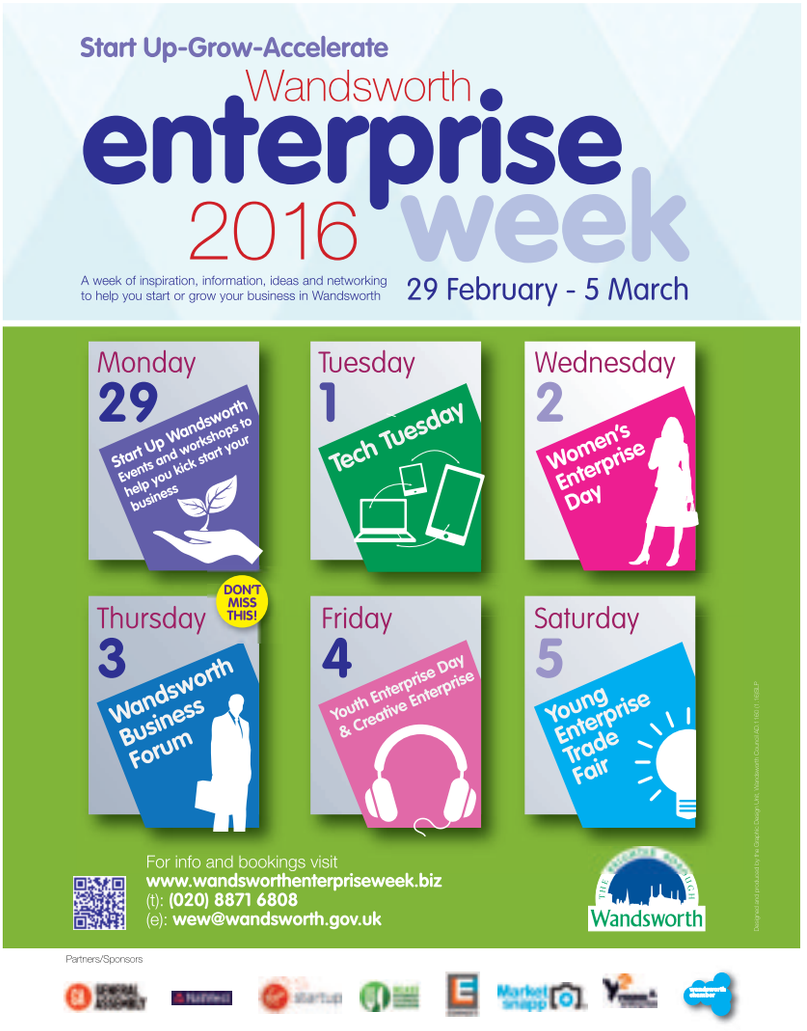
■ **THRIVING: Portobello Green Arcade**

By creating new small spaces for enterprise, as well as arts and community uses, alongside the existing world-famous vintage market and the shops in the Arcade, it can become a lively and attractive place that brings more customers to the existing businesses and helps to support new ones.

As a social enterprise we also have to look for new opportunities to raise the funds that support our programme of community education, grants and investment in the estate. Done right, the space could create affordable and flexible spaces for more entrepreneurial people in the community.

We've secured funding to bring the space alive and we are at the very start of exploring the options we have to do that. We have no preconceived ideas about what needs to go in the space, what it looks like or even what it will be made of. We want to harness the enterprising and creative spirit of the area to devise the plans.

Over the next few months you'll have the opportunity to get involved in that process, literally from the ground up, as we start gathering groups on Thorpe Close and asking them to draw, write and build their ideas right onto the spaces that will see them become a reality. Keep an eye out for ways that you can get involved. I hope as many people as possible will take part.



Rock heroes urged to help protect guitar makers' home

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

SAVE Tin Pan Alley campaigners are turning to Sir Paul McCartney and Pink Floyd's Dave Gilmour in a bid to preserve Denmark Street's dying tradition of guitar-making.

The campaigners, who want Camden Council and the London Mayor's Office to officially protect Denmark Street from excessive development by making it a Music Heritage site, are to ask the rock heroes and other top musicians to help fund the founding of a school for guitar makers.

Up to 15 years ago many guitar-makers – known as luthiers – worked in Denmark Street and many of the world's leading guitarists would go there to buy new instruments and have their favourite guitars repaired.

But now only one guitar-maker remains in the street and Save Tin Pan Alley founder Henry Scott-Irvine is to appeal to Sir Paul and Dave Gilmour to join the fight to ensure that the tradition does not die out completely as rising rents and development drives the luthiers out.

"At the dawn of the new millennium there were many guitar-makers of world renown in Denmark Street but now they are disappearing fast," said Mr Scott-Irvine.

"Until recently the world-famous guitar maker Phillippe Dubreuille had a workshop underneath Denmark Street's north side. He made guitars for people as diverse as Iggy Pop, Noel Gallagher, Wilko Johnson and Eddie Grant.

"But his lease was not renewed and now he works in Camden's Parkway next to The Dublin Castle.

"Now there are precious few of these craftsmen left in the street that was once the most legendary site for guitars in the world. On the south side, upstairs at number nine, is Tim Marten, who is the last dedicated guitar repairer in the street.

"But only one actual guitar maker now remains – Andy Gibson in the basement at 25. He has made guitars for many top musicians, including Jeff Beck, Iron Maiden, Hanoi Rocks' former frontman Michael Monroe and Robert Plant, but Andy's future is by no means certain nor guaranteed, although he remains optimistic."

He added: "It would be a crying shame if this great skill which was once so much a key part of the West End music scene is allowed to just fade away.

"I don't think planners appreciate how much of London's music history is centred on Denmark Street. It is famous throughout the world and many tourists come here just to look at the guitar shops because Denmark Street is a world music site and it needs to be treasured as such."

The Save Tin Pan Alley campaign has continually asked Camden and City Hall planning departments to turn Denmark Street into London's only Music Heritage Zone, but so far to no success.

So now the campaigners are turning for help to rock giants who have a history with Denmark Street.

Sir Paul McCartney was a regular visitor to the guitar shops in the area when he was in The Beatles and he bought there one of his favourite guitars which he still plays to this day – the Epiphone Casino which he used for the guitar solo when The Beatles recorded *Taxman*. The Beatles also recorded *She's Leaving Home* at the once-nearby Regent Sound studios when making their *Sgt Pepper* album.

Dave Gilmour was also a frequent visitor to Denmark Street in the early days of Pink Floyd, rehearsing in studios at number 25 and working with the band's album designers, Hipgnosis, who were based there.

"Hatton Garden is a Heritage Zone for jewellers. It has education and training as an important part of its Heritage Zone remit. This in essence means that local youths are trained in skills related to that area," said Mr Scott-Irvine.

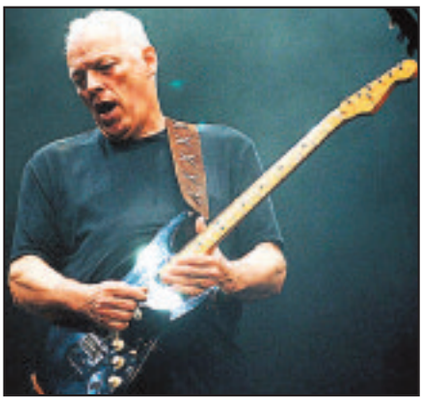
"In Hatton Garden's case that is cutting glass in preparation for cutting diamonds. We want to see a musical equivalent in Denmark Street with a school for guitar-makers, preserving this traditional skill which is so much a part of the area – before that tradition dies out completely.

"If we can achieve Heritage Zone status then this school would be a part of its remit. And the protected music spaces above the guitar shops would facilitate this perfectly.

"So I am now approaching Sir Paul and Dave Gilmour, and other musicians, with an appeal for them to help fund or wholly back the establishing of a guitar-makers' school in their old stamping ground of Tin Pan Alley.

"I'm hoping that they will heed our campaign motto - Don't Let The Music Die In Denmark St."

■ **HIGH IDEALS: Henry Scott-Irvine, right, and Michael Monroe on the rooftop overlooking the development of the Denmark Street area** Picture: Jerry Tremaine



■ **CALL FOR HELP: Campaigners trying to preserve the guitar-making heritage of London are writing to Sir Paul McCartney and David Gilmour to seek their support**

LETTER

Welfare Bill: plea to MPs

MACMILLAN Cancer Support is urging all MPs in London to uphold the Lords' amendments to the Welfare Reform and Work Bill, as this will ensure that people with cancer and other long-term illnesses, who are too ill to work but capable of work in the future, do not see their benefits reduced by £30 a week.

Current figures show that if MPs don't uphold these amendments, at least 48,870 people in London alone could be left without vital financial support. The 48,870 people in London can be broken down into the following:

- North East London – 18,520 people
- North West London – 15,550
- South East London – 8,420
- South West London – 6,380

Macmillan is also worried that some MPs might reject the Lords' amendments without realising that doing so will push some people with cancer over the edge financially. Our survey shows that over half of Conservative MPs (54 per cent) do not know that the Government's proposed changes will affect people who have had cancer. Just over a third of all MPs (38 per cent) are unaware of this impact.

Macmillan knows the financial burden that many people with cancer face. The charity found that four in five (83 per cent) people with cancer are on average £570 a month worse off as a result of their diagnosis.

As the Bill moves to its final stages, we hope MPs recognise the impact that any cuts to benefits will have on the physical and mental wellbeing of people in their constituencies with long-term illnesses and uphold the Lords' amendments.

Nikki Cannon
Senior Macmillan Development Manager for London

NEWS

Tube station staff to strike

STATION staff on London Underground are to stage a 48-hour strike in a long-running row over jobs.

Members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union will walk out at 8.59pm on February 6, while continuing with an overtime ban.

The union is in dispute with LU over ticket office closures and rosters under so-called Fit for the Future proposals.

General secretary Mick Cash said in a message to members: "I urge you all to show maximum support for your station staff colleagues during the above strike action, including not volunteering to cover any station staff duties or any shifts. These Fit for the Future proposals are too important to rush through and they must be fit for purpose before they are implemented."

Unions including the RMT have suspended industrial action in a separate dispute over plans for an all night Tube service.

Best of the sixth: academy proud to salute high-achieving students

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

JUBILANT students from Westminster Academy's sixth form are celebrating outstanding academic success this week.

The publication of the Department for Education school performance tables for state and independent sixth forms ranked the academy 13th in the country.

The average point score per student in 2015 was 1166.1, putting Westminster Academy first amongst London schools.

The academy has experienced success with its sixth form programme, which offers the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) and International Baccalaureate Career-Related Programme (IBCP).

These qualifications allow students to compete on a global platform; in 2015 Westminster's IBDP students achieved an average of almost 35 points, above the world average of 29.88.

Top performer Gabriela Jaroszewska scored 43 out of a possible 45 (the equivalent of 676 UCAS points), putting her in the top two per cent of IBDP students worldwide.

Gabriela said: "Success is not achieved alone so it was a real honour to be part of such a hard-working and committed group of staff and students."

Classmate Zakri Zulkurnain scored an impressive 41, earning him not only his place at the University of Oxford, but also a Dangoor Challenge Scholarship.

This £15,000 scholarship, paid over three years, is one of three funded by the school's sponsors, the Dangoor family, for the first three Westminster Academy students to gain a university place at Oxford, Cambridge or Imperial College.

Sponsor David Dangoor, of the Exilarch's Foundation, said: "The sponsors, chair of governors, as well as the principal and her team are determined to boost the potential of all our students.

"We hope that many will follow Zak's achievement so that we are sending students to the best universities every year."

Students following the IB career-related programme achieved an exceptional 100 per cent pass rate in 2015, with all students meeting their university offers.

Students have now embarked on university life, taking with them a toolkit of skills that the IB core provides as preparation: language development, extended essays and projects, community volunteering and critical thinking.

Senior leader for sixth form, Patrick Farmbrough, said: "It is a privilege to be to be placed amongst such great schools and we are delighted to be one of seven of the top 20 UK sixth forms to offer the IB, reflecting the growing appeal of the programme."

The academy once again achieved above national average results at key stage four, with 80 per cent of students making expected progress in English and maths.

A school spokesman said of the latest results: "The performance tables highlighted the strength of the value added at the school; Westminster Academy has been consistently ranked in the top one per cent of schools nationally in terms of its 'Best 8' score, including English and maths."

Principal, Dr Saima Rana, said: "I am thrilled that this performance does justice to the drive and passion of our students, staff, parents, carers and all of our supporters in the community.

"As a whole school the academy is a great believer in the International Baccalaureate as we are determined to provide every opportunity to go beyond academic achievements and develop knowledgeable, inquisitive young people who care for their community and the world around them."

■ **THUMBS UP: Westminster Academy sixth formers celebrate their IB Career Related Programme success**

■ **TOP ACHIEVERS: Westminster Academy sixth form class of 2015 students**

■ **PROUD SCHOLARS: Westminster Academy sixth form IB Diploma Programme graduates**

Wild ideas for the half term

BIRD watching, seed sowing, animal tracking and a wild Thursday are just some of the activities on offer at Holland Park Ecology Centre during the spring half-term break, which runs from Monday, February 15 to Friday 19.

The sessions that run in the mornings and afternoons on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday are two hours long, must be booked in advance and cost £4.30 for Kensington and Chelsea royal borough residents and £5.50 for non residents. To book your place email *ecology.centre@rbkc.gov.uk* phone 020 7938 8186 or visit *www.rbkc.gov.uk/ecology*

Wild Thursday is a drop-in session that will run at the park's wildlife area and costs £2 per child. Booking is not required.

Children aged under-eight must be accompanied by an adult. The centre is in Holland Park next to the adventure playground and near the Abbotsbury Road car park.

Club's best bar accolade

KENSINGTON'S private members club The Roof Gardens has won Best Club at the royal borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Best Bar None awards.

Since their inception in 2008, the awards have been recognising, promoting and rewarding the responsible management and operation of alcohol-licensed premises throughout Kensington and Chelsea. The aim of the scheme is to offer and maintain a high quality, safe and enjoyable social experience for those that live in, work in or visit the area.

The awards team is made up of royal borough licensing officers and the police, working in partnership with the council's environmental health, trading standards, community safety teams and the London Fire Authority.

Register for right to vote

IN the run-up to the London mayoral elections on Thursday, May 5, residents are being urged to make sure they are registered to vote.

National Voter Registration Day is Thursday, February 4. People eligible to vote must be registered by Monday, April 18 if they want to take part in the elections. On polling day people will be able to cast three votes: one for the mayor of London, one for the constituency member for West Central (which is made up of Westminster City Council, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham) and one vote for London-wide members of the London Assembly.

ROYAL LONDON

Swarthy Charles prompts new view of a 'dark period' in English history

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

WAS Charles II black? News to us too, but according to new claims now sweeping the Net the Merry Monarch was of African blood.

Writer and historian Oguejiofo Annu asserts that Charles Stuart was our first black king "and was lovingly known as 'the Black Boy of England' by his subjects".

Now the claim is set to be explored in *A Black History of Britain*, a major new series coming soon to BBC2.

Mr Annu claims that his research has discovered that history has covered up King Charles's "real" ethnic identity.

"The word Stuart comes from the old Nordish root 'Svart', which means black. Stuart is the same word as Swarthy, which means black in old English," claims Mr Annu.

"It was said that when Charles was born in 1630 he was nicknamed the Black Boy by his mother, Queen Henrietta Maria, because of his dark and swarthy appearance.

"According to the annals of the English monarch, Charles' appearance was anything but English, with his sensuous curling mouth, dark complexion, black hair and dark brown eyes, he much resembled his Italian maternal grandmother, Marie de Medici's side of the family. During his escape after the Battle of Worcester, he was referred to as 'a tall, black man' in Parliamentary wanted posters.

"All English pubs named The Black Boy are named after Charles II due to the swarthy and dark colour of his complexion. King Charles II was a black man. Many of his surviving paintings falsely depict him as a so-called white man in clear contradiction of the famous description of the jolly King."

Mr Annu's somewhat surprising reassessment of history is backed by a Dutch historian, Egmond Codfried of The Hague, who believes that the blue blood of European royals descended from African origins.

"Blue blood seems to derive from blue men as how European blacks were described during the Middle Ages," states Mr Codfried.

"Between 1100 and 1200 we see the emergence of the black Magi or black King in Adoration scenes, starting in the South of Germany and Bohemia, and becoming a common theme in the whole of Europe by 1500.

■ COLOUR CODED: Charles II in the robes of the Order of the Garter, by John Michael Wright or studio, c. 1660–1665

"Because of the personal descriptions, the images of Moors, the implication of a biological quality to nobleness and the strict intermarriage, I came to regard blue as an euphemism for black and defined the European nobility and royalty as an intermarrying, fixed mulatto race with some looking more African, more Asian or white, but sharing a blue blood identity.

"The European blacks were the first Europeans arriving 43,000 years earlier. The whites are only 6,000 years in Europe, arriving from Central Asia.

"Most likely, part of the European black minority had military power and scientific knowledge and formed a conquering and ruling noble class over the white majority. So it was not white nobles inviting in blacks, but black Europeans at the root of Europe, and of the nobility and royal families. Blue blood is black blood."

■ NEW PERSPECTIVE: From historian David Olusoga

Well, it's a theory and hopefully one that another historian, the acclaimed broadcaster David Olusoga, will address in *A Black History Of Britain*, a series of four films for BBC2.

Paul Reid, director of Black Cultural Archives, the organisation which is making the films with Mr Olusoga, says: "Our mission is to collect, preserve and celebrate the histories of African and Caribbean people in Britain. This exciting series will uncover the less-known historical narratives, providing an insight into the Black presence in Britain and documenting the richness of British history."

Whether or not the less-known narratives will reveal the Merry Monarch's "true" ancestry, the BBC is not saying. But it does reveal, "this is a history full of surprises, scandal and contradictions. It will be bristling with emotion, discomforting facts and controversy. The series will confront taboo subjects that are rarely explored – revealing how the Stuart kings were among Britain's first big slave traders, and confronting the fact that many African kingdoms grew rich by trading in slaves."

CLEANINGTEAM SERVICES

First Choice for cleaning

- Domestic cleaning
- Daily, weekly, one-off spring cleaning
- End of tenancy cleaning
- Office and commercial cleaning
- After building cleaning
- Residential and common area
- Restaurants, pubs and bars
- Ironing, laundry, dry cleaning

Professional, reliable, vetted and insured cleaners.
Excellent rates.
Outstanding value.
T: 020 8452 2900
www.cleaningteamservices.co.uk

Where to see a royal this week

FULL details of future and recent events in the ever-busy diaries of the many members of the Royal Family are available from the official website *www.royal.gov.uk* but here's the schedule for the week ahead for Where To See A Royal.

February 2

■ The Earl of Wessex, as Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will hold receptions at St James's Palace for young people who have reached the Gold Standard in the Award.

■ The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall will attend a reception and dinner at The Natural History Museum.

February 3

■ The Duke of Kent, as Grand Master, will attend a Rulers' Lunch at Freemasons' Hall, 60, Great Queen Street.

February 4

■ The Prince of Wales, as President, The Prince's Trust, will attend the annual Prince's Trust 'Invest In Futures' Reception, Old Billingsgate, Old Billingsgate Walk EC3.

February 5

■ Princess Alexandra will attend a reception at The Richmond Golf Club, in Sudbrook Park, Richmond-upon-Thames.

February 9th

■ The Earl of Wessex, as Patron, British Paralympic Association, will hold a lunch at Buckingham Palace.

■ The Earl of Wessex, as Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation, will hold a Development Group Meeting at Buckingham Palace.

■ The Princess Royal, as Visitor, Dorothy House Hospice Care, will hold a 40th anniversary reception at Buckingham Palace.

'Nepal suffers civil unrest, terrorism and earthquakes... send Harry there'

DESPITE the fact that the Foreign Office is currently advising against "all but essential travel" to parts of Nepal and warns on its website "there is a general threat from terrorism; attacks can be indiscriminate, including in places frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers", the Government is soon sending Prince Harry there to do their own work for them, *writes Geoff Baker*.

Harry is being dispatched to the trouble-spot soon "at the request of Her Majesty's Government", which in other words is called an order.

Clearly the Government feels that the hugely-popular prince may have a greater chance of affecting British interests than some little-known diplomat or minister, but royal watchers are querying whether Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond is entirely within the grip of his senses to be publicly announcing he is sending Harry there when even his own department is warning that the nation is currently no Butlin's.

"Disagreements arising from Nepal's new constitution have led to protests and strikes in Nepal, with many turning violent in the Terai districts, leading to multiple fatalities," the Foreign Office warns travellers on its own website, although it neglects to mention that "multiple fatalities" is a polite way of putting the fact that since August there have been more than 60 deaths and several hundred injuries as a result of the unrest.

"Protests can occur at short notice and turn violent. Clashes between protesters and police may occur anywhere," adds the FO in its travellers' guide.

■ FLASHPOINT: Nepal has endured regular bouts of civil disobedience... and now Prince Harry has been ordered there

Nepal is in crisis; 700,000 people have been pushed to the poverty line by rising prices caused by a four-month blockade of its trade-route border with India. The blockade, mounted by members of the Madhesi minority who are protesting for better rights and representation, has caused severe fuel shortages which have consequently closed factories and have forced 200,000 out of work. Tourism in Nepal has suffered badly as a result of the unrest, which has also grounded many domestic flights and hit emergency services.

On top of that, hundreds of thousands are still living in tents and makeshift huts in the wake of last year's earthquakes, which killed more than 9,000 people and destroyed one million homes and buildings.

And the Foreign Office is also warning that more quakes can be expected yet.

"Nepal is in a major earthquake zone and remains at risk from further earthquakes, aftershocks, landslides and flooding. You should familiarise yourself with safety procedures in the event of an earthquake," it says.

Although Prince Harry is doubtless being given earthquake training in advance of his press-ganged visit, some may feel that in the light of all of these potential threats he should be accompanied on his trip by a squad of SAS bodyguards to bolster his usual royal protection team.

But it seems that Harry, an army veteran of the no-picnic which was the Afghanistan war, feels quite safe in the company of Nepal's world-famous Gurkhas. The Gurkhas have been a key part of the British Army for 200 years and their motto – "better to die than be a coward" – gives some indication of their peerless reputation.

They still carry into battle their traditional weapon – an 18-inch long curved knife known as the kukri. In times past, it was said that once a kukri was drawn in battle, it had to "taste blood" – if not, its owner had to cut himself before returning it to its sheath. Now, the Gurkhas say, it is used mainly for cooking. But the operative word in that sentence may be "mainly".

However, Harry has made it clear that he feels more than secure whenever the Gurkhas are about. He lived with a Gurkha battalion during his time in Afghanistan and has the highest regard for the legendary fighting force for whom new recruits are only considered once they have run up a mountain for 40 minutes with a wicker basket on their backs holding rocks weighing 70lbs.

"When you know you are with the Gurkhas, I think there is no safer place to be," Harry has said. "They are all armed with kukris, so if they run out of ammunition they will charge you with their 'massive swords', as the enemy call them."

Despite the fact that Harry has been ordered to go to Nepal, it is unlikely that he had any resistance to the idea. Harry has the highest respect for the Gurkhas, and has said if he was given his own way he would have become one of them. At an event at the Royal Hospital Chelsea to honour the Gurkhas' bicentenary last year, Harry told a fellow guest, the *Born Free* founder Virginia McKenna: "I always wanted to be a Gurkha, but the opportunity never arose. Physically, I bow to these guys; they are incredible."

Tom targets royals for scoop of the century

■ HEADLINE NEWS: ITV's popular anchorman, Tom Bradby

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

IS ITV News poised to land the royal scoop of the century to mark The Queen's 90th birthday this summer?

As is well known, Her Majesty has very wisely never given an interview since she was crowned and it is highly unlikely that she is going to start doing press junkets now, birthday or no birthday.

Many newsmen of course wish that she would, including the BBC's John Humphrys, who has declared that interviewing The Queen would be the highlight of his career.

However, royal watchers believe that even if The Queen was persuaded to do an interview to mark her 90th, she would probably not choose to do it with a figure so famed for interrupting his interviewees and playing Devil's advocate.

Even, it is said, ITV News anchorman Tom Bradby would be hard pushed to land such an interview – even though the former royal correspondent is a friend of Prince William and was a guest at his wedding.

But TV executives say that the up-and-coming Bradby, who landed a world exclusive in 2010 by getting the first interview with William and Kate on the occasion of their engagement, may have another audacious plan up his sleeve.

Insiders believe that instead of trying to nail the impossible dream of a TV chat with The Queen, that he may be chasing other members of the Royal Family – including the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Charles – for on-camera interviews about The Queen, which would then be edited together for a documentary to honour Her Majesty's long life and reign.

Being a good and loyal friend of the royals, Bradby could of course be trusted with such special access and such a one-off would be a massive ratings hit with viewers all over the UK and around the world.

It would also be the biggest of feathers in the cap of ITV, who have been trouncing their rivals at the BBC in the highly-competitive world of royal TV specials.

Besides the scoop with William and Kate, more recently ITV scored the exclusive Ant and Dec interview with Prince Charles to mark the 40th anniversary of The Prince's Trust and the Geordie pair have been also chosen to present ITV's live coverage of the Royal Windsor Horse Show, which will celebrate The Queen's birthday – in her presence – in May.

Capital nights

EDITED BY GEOFF BAKER

Has the BBC's licence to thrill expired?

MPs pressing for swingeing cash cuts at the BBC may soon come to regret it – as they could find themselves off the air when the costs are weighed up.

For when it comes to what is most cost effective, the MPs' own TV channel is one of the least worth it of all – with the average viewer watching BBC Parliament for less than one minute each week.

And yet it costs the BBC £10.5 million a year to run the channel that most viewers clearly feel is a big yawn.

Official figures reveal that when it comes to turning on the nation, very little is a bigger turn-off than watching MPs. According to the independent ratings auditor, the Broadcasters' Audience Research Board, whereas the average viewer watches BBC1 for more than six hours a week, he only spends 60 seconds a week watching the BBC Parliament channel.

Now accountants are wondering whether "MPTV" is worth the spending and it could be one of the channels that is axed by the BBC director general as he struggles to find the £550 million savings which are to be announced soon.

Although Lord Hall is hoping to rake back some cash by persuading pensioners to become charity donors and give up their right to the free licence fee, many of those who believe that it's a bit rich that OAPs should now have to fund the corporation reckon that the current audit of all BBC output could present a different case.

For instance, the BBC spends £54.2 million a year on Radio 1, which is listened to by 10.5 million a week. However, its accounts reveal that it spends more money on Radio 3 – £54.3 million – for a weekly audience of just 1.8 million listeners.

In addition, it also spends £29.2 million maintaining its "orchestras and performing groups", which include the BBC Big Band, the BBC Concert Orchestra, the BBC Singers, the BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of Wales, the BBC Philharmonic, the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra.

Some accountants may say that at a time when the BBC is strapped for cash, big savings could be had by scrapping its bands, orchestras and choruses and playing a record instead.

FIELD OF DREAMS: The BBC sent 300 staff to the 2015 Glastonbury Festival

Alternatively, the spotlight of scrutiny is also falling on the BBC Alba channel, which most viewers will not have heard of, let alone ever watched. BBC Alba is the Scottish Gaelic channel, Alba is the Gaelic name for Scotland. Alba is funded by the BBC to the tune of £7.8 million a year, which does not seem a vast sum until a bit of auditing reveals that only 1.1 per cent of Scots [57,000 people] actually speak Gaelic and that, of them, only 62 per cent watch BBC Alba's most-watched programme, a drama called *Bannan* which is therefore seen by a miniscule audience of just 35,000 people.

Bean counters are asking whether it is good housekeeping to be spending £7.8 million on an ethnic minority channel aimed at less than 60,000 viewers when the spend is £136 per viewer, almost the equivalent of a whole licence fee.

Similar questions are being asked over the BBC Asian radio channel. This costs £13 million a year to run and yet it has only 600,000 listeners. In a time of broadcasting austerity, is it value for money to be spending the equivalent of more than a quarter of Radio 1's budget for the equivalent of five per cent of Radio 1's listeners?

Applying the VFM test, BBC radio services in Wales also look a bit shaky. The BBC currently spends a total of £36.4 million each year on Radio Wales and Radio Cymru, for a return of only 408,000 and 116,000 listeners respectively – making the audience of 743,000 who cannot stand watching £10.5 million-costing BBC Parliament for more than a minute look like a bargain.

However, the biggest controversy over the coming cuts has been that which has met the leaked option that the BBC may hire older stars including Dame Helen Mirren and Sir Michael Parkinson to front a persuasive advertising campaign, begging the elderly to give up their right to a free TV licence so that the broadcaster can do things like send a staff of 300 to cover the Glastonbury Festival last year.

A glitzy, prime time and heartstring-tugging appeal to the over-75s to fund the BBC somewhat smacks of the controversy currently raging over charities who besiege the elderly with repeated requests for money, and the suggestion has upset the National Pensioners Convention.

"Many older, vulnerable people might be taken in by this when they should be protected," said the organisation's general secretary, Dot Gibson. "One of the reasons we have the free TV licence in the first place is because our state pension remains one of the lowest in the developed world."

However, that developed world may provide a solution to the BBC's money problems.

Although the corporation is reported to be also considering effecting savings by raising the age limit at which viewers are entitled to a free TV licence, which seems a bit mean to penalise the elderly for years of BBC lavish spending on its stars, another way of helping to solve the financial crisis would be to look at what the BBC sells the rest of the world.

The BBC's income from the licence fee is £3,722,000,000. But it also pulls in £1,340,000,000 mainly in sales of programmes and services around the world.

Although the actual profit from the activities of its commercial arm is considerably less, £174 million last year, selling off that arm may have considerable appeal to the BBC's many privatisation-obsessed masters.

Alternatively, the BBC could extend its current and widespread online advertising opportunities to home-shown TV – thus decimating ITV and Sky and starting a whole new row.

TICKETS are now on sale for this year's Hampton Court Palace Festival, the gig that is reckoned to be the best concert setting in London.

George Benson, Van Morrison, Anastacia, Caro Emerald, Jools Holland and the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra will all perform in Henry VIII's open air courtyard on June 8 to 18.

Ten-time Grammy award-winner George Benson, who will be performing classics including *Give Me The Night, Lady Love Me One More Time, Turn Your Love Around*, and *Inspiration: A Tribute to Nat King Cole*, said: "It is one of the most beautiful venues I have performed at in the world and I'm thrilled that I can perform there again this summer."

Anastacia is making her festival debut this year and so too is Caro Emerald, whose second album *The Shocking Miss Emerald*, entered the Official UK Album Chart at No 1 and remained in the chart for an entire year.

Tickets are £45 to £95 and are available at the dedicated website *www.hamptoncourtpalacefestival.com*

KING GEORGE: George Benson will play at the Hampton Court Palace Festival in June. Below, Axl Rose features on BBC Four

AHEAD of widespread rumours that former Guns N' Roses frontman Axl Rose is to rejoin the band and front with guitarist Slash a world tour coming to London later this year, BBC Four is to premiere a new film history of the band this week.

BBC Four will screen on Friday *The Most Dangerous Band In The World*, a behind-the-scenes documentary by Jon Brewer, who has won awards for his powerful films on the life stories of BB King, Jimi Hendrix and Nat King Cole.

With exclusive interviews with band members and unseen concert footage, the film tells the story of how Guns N' Roses came from playing bars on the Sunset Strip in Los Angeles to stadiums across the world.

"It's the explosive rise of one of the most notorious bands of our times, a story of sex, drugs and excess," says the BBC.

Four's Finnemore comes write to the fore

MUCH talk is going on about John Finnemore, radio's funniest writer, getting "upgraded" from Radio 4 to prime-time TV.

Finnemore, who created *Cabin Pressure* and who currently hosts his *Souvenir Programme*, is currently under the spotlight of both BBC and ITV comedy chiefs, who are desperate for writers of his outstanding calibre.

The former Cambridge Footlights star who has appeared on the best of Radio 4 comedy – including *The Now Show, The Unbelievable Truth, I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue*, and *The News Quiz* – is said to be in the running to write and star in his own TV comedy.

One option under consideration is for the big guns of TV to pick up on a pilot that Finnemore wrote a few years back that was not developed as a series – *George and Bernard Shaw*, a sitcom starring Robert Lindsay and the late Richard Griffiths as an elderly gay couple.

Moles say commissioning editors are now looking at re-casting Griffiths' role and going into full production.

Anyone who is wondering why Finnemore should be exciting so much attention should check out on BBC iPlayer the 'Kirates' sketch in the *Souvenir Programme* of a couple of weeks back. The sketch, devised around the talking skulls of two pirates who, having no lips, cannot pronounce the letter 'p', is by far the funniest thing heard on radio in years.

ONE TO WATCH: John Finnemore

Capital nights

EDITED BY GEOFF BAKER

Stones make an exhibition of themselves

AS The Rolling Stones kick off their South American tour this week, a huge security operation is being planned for April – when London's favourite rock sons return to their old stomping ground of Chelsea for a special appearance.

The band's much-anticipated *Exhibitionism*, the first exhibition of the 50-year history of the Stones, opens to the public at The Saatchi Gallery on April 6 and Mick, Keith, Charlie and Ron are all expected to be at the gala launch the evening before, alongside special guests Bill Wyman and Mick Taylor.

Exhibitionism, which has been three years in the planning, will take up two entire floors of the gallery and will feature more than 500 unseen artefacts from the band's personal archives, including letters, diaries, unheard tracks, unseen video, rare artwork and special rooms that will recreate the look inside the Stones' dressing rooms on tour.

Tickets for the exhibition, which runs until September, are selling fast at *www.stonesexhibitionism.com* but everybody who is anybody in London's music scene will be trying to get into the VIP launch event.

Although the Stones have performed pretty much everywhere else in recent years – their new tour of Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil and Mexico adds to tours of the USA, Japan, China, the Middle East, Europe, New Zealand and Australia – they have not played on their home turf since their gig for 130,000 in Hyde Park in July 2013.

The Stones' South American tour runs until March 17, after which they are expected to be back in London to oversee the staging of *Exhibitionism* and start recording a new studio album, which will be their 30th and the first since *A Bigger Bang* of 2005.

Hopes are high that after so long away from London, the band – which started laying down tracks for the new album over Christmas – will launch it with a gig in their home town in September, 50 years after their infamous gig at the Royal Albert Hall where a riot broke out during their opening number, *Paint It Black*, and several hundred fans bowled over police and security and stormed the stage.

The concert, the opening night of the Stones' first UK tour in a year, had to be stopped after three girls grabbed Mick and fought each other in a frenzied attempt to tear off his clothes before roadies could rescue him. More than 50 girls fainted and were treated by St John's Ambulance and the chaotic scenes horrified newspaper reporters who had never seen anything like it.

Bill Wyman later recorded in his history of the band a *Sunday People* review of the night which shocked the nation: "The sight of a 14-year-old schoolgirl with her mini-skirt hitched over her thighs, being flung, legs kicking, through swing doors like a gangster in a B-picture brawl, no longer makes me feel sick.

"Girls crying as bitterly as if they'd just seen their parents killed in a road accident, when all they wanted to do was just touch one of the Stones, no longer brings a lump to my throat. I saw mass hysteria at close hand, it was not a pleasant sight. Hardly a word of the Stones' lyrics was heard above the shrill screams."

The 1966 tour, on which the Stones were supported by Ike and Tina Turner, The Yardbirds and Long John Baldry, was financially a far cry from the Stones' mega treks of today. Last year the band's 17-city tour of the USA grossed £73 million – in 1966 their 23-date tour of the UK grossed £27,586, with a profit of just £615.

But, as Bill Wyman also records in his excellent history book *Rolling With The Stones*, although the tour didn't make them rich, it made them happy because it got them notorious again, as Keith Richards commented at the time.

"The tour has been an enormous success because it's brought the young people back again. It was getting all draggy and quiet, we were in danger of becoming respectable. Now, the new wave has arrived, rushing the stage just like old times."

More rushing to mob the band is predicted at the opening of *Exhibitionism*, which is expected to include rare footage of the Albert Hall riot.

■ **TOUR DE FORCE: The Rolling Stones return to their old stomping ground in April**

ARE bosses at Radio 4's *Today* programme grooming Sonali Shah for big things?

The cheerful former *Newsround* presenter recently seen presenting spots for *Crimewatch, Springwatch* and *Escape To The Country* joined *Today* in 2014 to provide summer cover for the sports news but she has been kept on ever since. Sources say that is because BBC news chiefs have got their eye on her as a possible new main presenter of Radio 4's flagship.

The BBC is keen to attract a new, younger audience to *Today* and the word is that bosses impressed by Sonali's witty but incisive style are thinking that hers may be just the voice to bring in all the young news dudes.

■ **BRIGHT START: Sonali Shah has brought a youthful spark to *Today***

FUNNY man Peter Kay is celebrating after the BBC announced they have commissioned a brand new series documenting his work.

The 42-year-old comedian, who was seen by one of our *Capital Nights* celebrity spotters on a night out with friends last week in Leicester Square, is said to be over the moon with the decision by Beeb bosses to put money into this new project, which looks back over his 20-year long career.

Following the success of both *Car Share* and *Cradle to Grave* last year, it seems Auntie's purse strings have been loosened where the award winning comedian is concerned, with friends of the star saying he is delighted to be offered another opportunity to monopolise the channel.

This is not the first time the Beeb have thrown some funds Kay's way, with *Peter Kay: 20 years of Funny* airing over Christmas with an average of 5.54 million viewers, rivalling the big guns like *Downton Abbey* and *Eastenders* in the ratings.

The controller of comedy commissioning, Shane Allen, said: "Peter's notched up a lot of live and TV shows over the last two decades which have become modern classics and deserve to be enjoyed all over again in this new way."

Cradock admits it's nice to be back in London

■ **INNOVATOR: Steve Cradock**

WITH a sold-out gig in London under his belt, Britpop guitar virtuoso Steve Cradock enjoyed getting back to London.

Now based in Devon, the musician, a founder member of 90s hit makers Ocean Colour Scene, is enjoying a slightly slower pace to life with his family.

The band with which he scored unparalleled success are still in high demand however, and sold out their Islington gig within just ten minutes of the box office opening. The 46-year-old has also enjoyed a long-term friendship with his idol, Paul Weller, with whom he has collaborated on a number of projects and who has acted as a mentor to Steve over the years, teaching him the ways of the fickle music business.

Originally from Solihull, Steve's first memory of music is from his grandfather, who was part of a duo which won an acclaimed talent contest in the late 30s. Although not altogether encouraging, his grandfather's banjo playing ignited an enthusiasm within the young Cradock, whose interest grew further with the help of another family tie. He explained: "I had this Irish kind of an uncle and every Sunday we'd go up to Nottingham to see them as a family. We'd always end up in the pub and there would be country and western music and that's the first time I tried to play a bass guitar. I think I must have only been about six or seven and there just seemed something magical about it."

He went on to listen to a mixture of music, but it was reggae which first encouraged him to pick up the bass.

"When I was 11, I was aware because my mate's grandmother lived next door to Astro from UB40. He gave us the first album before it came out. That's what made we want a bass guitar."

With no formal training, Steve went on to become one of the most respected British guitarists in recent years, with some of his iconic riffs forming part of the sound of a generation.

"If you're into it I think you're away really. I think it's not about being talented. You become talented, unless you're a prodigy, which I'm not. I don't think I've met one.

"Stevie Winwood was one, Stevie Marriot was one and in a way, that kind of burnt them out."

Bosses come out in favour of Crossrail

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A NEW row has broken out over the controversial plan to build a Crossrail station in Chelsea, with dozens of cultural, business and health chiefs claiming to represent 20,000 staff backing the scheme and anti-Crossrail campaigners claiming to represent 10,000 residents saying the "pro" bosses are not locals.

In a letter to London Mayor Boris Johnson signed by 46 leading lights of Kensington and Chelsea the "pro" campaigners claim that a station "of appropriate scale and design" will boost business "and ensure the long-term success of Kensington and Chelsea as a unique and iconic London retail, employment and cultural centre to the benefit of the whole capital".

Signatories to the letter include Sir Michael Dixon, director of the Natural History Museum; Polpo restaurateur Russell Norman; Nigel Hurst, chief executive of the Saatchi Gallery; Joseph Cooper, managing director of the Imperial College Union; and Lesley Watts, chief executive of the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

The chiefs said they represent employers with more than 20,000 staff and establishments visited by more than 30 million visitors a year.

They wrote: "It has long been acknowledged that Kensington and Chelsea lack good integration with the wider London public transport system, especially the Underground."

They added that the station "will boost business and employment in this area generally, enhance its status and attractiveness and ensure the long-term success of Kensington and Chelsea as a unique and iconic London retail, employment, and cultural centre, to the benefit of the whole capital".

But The No Crossrail in Chelsea group said that many of the signatories, including the bosses of Harrods in Knightsbridge and the Science Museum in South Kensington, were not local to Chelsea.

Chris Lenon, chair of the No Crossrail in Chelsea campaign, said: "It is no business of the Harrods boss whether there is a station in Chelsea.

"The idea that anyone will get off a Crossrail train on the King's Road to go to Harrods in Knightsbridge, a full mile away, is ridiculous."

Actress Cherie Lunghi, a patron of the "anti" campaign, added: "The idea that these bosses represent, or have even consulted, 20,000 of their employees is questionable. Chelsea's small and medium-sized businesses oppose a King's Road Crossrail station — as do the Royal Marsden and Brompton hospitals."

Another patron and fellow actress Felicity Kendal, said: "These business people do not represent the Chelsea locals who will be affected by a mammoth King's Road Crossrail station or the majority of Londoners who opposed this station in the TfL consultation.

"Big business might benefit – but to ordinary Londoners it makes no sense to spend £1 billion on the richest part of the capital when other places desperately need the investment."

■ **CROSSRAIL ADVOCATES: Sir Michael Dixon, above, director of the Natural History Museum, and Lesley Watts, chief executive of the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust**

Study shows scope for 130,000 homes

THE first ever comprehensive register of public land in London, revealing 40,000 sites across the capital including the capacity to deliver a minimum of 130,000 homes, has been published by the London Land Commission.

The commission, chaired by the Mayor of London Boris Johnson and Housing and Planning Minister Brandon Lewis, appointed Savills in July last year to compile the preliminary stages of a so-called Domesday Book of all brownfield land owned by public bodies in London.

The register is now available in the form of an interactive map on City Hall's website, detailing the locations of land owned by the Mayor of London, Government departments, London boroughs, Transport for London and the NHS. There are sites across every London borough, ranging from tiny parcels of land capable of building a small number of homes to larger sites, which could accommodate hundreds of new homes for Londoners. City Hall has already identified there could be a minimum of 130,000 homes built for Londoners on public sites potentially surplus, a volume of homes which will continue to grow. The register also includes details of the existing use of each site, including whether they are office, residential, transport or industrial.

It is the first time such a wide-ranging set of data has been compiled for the capital and will now be analysed by City Hall to further unlock and accelerate the release of surplus land for much-needed housing.

The Commission is working with the land owners on the register to determine availability and to encourage the marketing of public land to obtain the best possible housing development for Londoners, rather than selling with no obligations.

1/1/2016

CO-ENZYME Q10 100MG	£16.06
L-ARGININE 500MG X 12	£99.88
VITAMIN B5 30'S	£5.50
B-COMPLEXES X 2	£14.50
VITAMIN E 200IU 50'S	£6.85
TAURINE 500MG	£7.13
SELENIUM 200UG	£12.70
VITAMIN B6 100MG	£8.88
VITAMIN B1 100'S	£8.09
NIACIN 100MG	£4.59
L-GLUTAMINE 50'S	£9.79
VITAMIN B12 1000UG	£10.28
FOLIC ACID 100'S	£4.73
POMEGRANATE JUICE 500ML	£8.65
VITAMIN D3 1000IU	£8.02
QI RIBOSE 180G	£23.70

£249.35

REVIVE ACTIVE
YOUR COMPLETE HEALTH FOOD SUPPLEMENT
MULTIPLE BENEFITS, SUPERB VALUE & TOTAL CONVENIENCE
Buy your ingredients individually for £249.35
OR buy 30 sachets full of natural goodness for £49.99.

VEGANS
VEGETARIAN
DIABETICS
COELIACS

£49.99

BENEFITS INCLUDE:
MAINTAIN YOUR ENERGY NATURALLY
SUPPORT YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM
HEART HEALTH
HEALTHY SKIN, HAIR AND NAILS
ASSOCIATED WITH TWO NOBEL PRIZES CHEMISTRY 1978 MEDICINE 1998
PLUS MANY MORE BENEFITS

MADE IN IRELAND

AVAILABLE IN SELECT PHARMACIES & HEALTH FOOD STORES. BUY ONLINE AT WWW.REVIVEACTIVE.COM OR FREEPHONE UK 0800 901 2152

revive™ ACTIVE
DELIVERING REAL BENEFITS

Serving the finest halal meat since 1965

TARIQ HALAL
There is only one

431 North End Road, Fulham, Broadway SW6 1NY
Also at - Leyton | Hounslow | Streatham | Southall | Croydon | Slough | Ilford

www.tariqhalalmeats.com

HALAL BUTCHER'S SHOP
BUTCHER'S SHOP OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2015
WINNER

CHICKENSHED
KENSINGTON&CHELSEA
THEATRE CHANGING LIVES

Children's Theatre Workshops

at The Wharf Rooms, Imperial Road, London SW6 2GA

12 January - 23 March (excluding Half Term)

Children's Theatre 1 for 5-7yrs (school yrs 1 & 2)
Wednesdays, 4.30pm - 5.45pm

Children's Theatre 2 for 7-11yrs (school yrs 3-6)
Tuesdays, 5.15pm - 6.30pm

Price per term £75

Based at The Wharf Rooms, Chickenshed runs exciting, vibrant and inclusive theatre workshops for all children aged 5 - 11yrs.

Our workshops are taught by highly skilled practitioners who will invent and explore drama, dance and music. Children will get the chance to improve and develop their skills and creative abilities during these fun and creative sessions. During the year there will be opportunities for friends and family to see workshops, presentations and performances created by the groups.

Using our inclusive creative process, all children will be given the most relevant type of support to enable them to achieve and flourish.

To apply please telephone **020 7351 9298** or email **kc@chickenshed.org.uk** or visit **www.chickenshed.org.uk**

Registered charity no 1012369

Talk of the town

BY NICKY SWEETLAND

Masterpiece of teen trials

Herons *****

I WASN'T around when Simon Stephens' highly acclaimed *Herons* was first staged at the Royal Court in 2001 so I came to this revival with no preconceptions other than that I had been afforded the honour of attending one of the rehearsals of the powerful adolescent saga just a few weeks ago, *writes Nicky Sweetland.*

What I saw then was a group of astoundingly talented young actors being moulded by a highly skilled director to produce a play that looked like it would be a masterpiece of social reflection and teenage trial. That is exactly what you get with this production, which has grown into a theatrical triumph over the weeks of final preparation.

Sean Holmes' direction of the cast is an organic work of art which compliments all of the socially familiar characters and with a set comprised of a primate behavioural study on video loop and a watery trough, the complexities of the victims and the perpetrators are wonderfully explored, with chilling consequences.

Max Gill, who impressed as Fat Sam in the Lyric's acclaimed production of *Bugsy Malone* earlier this year, plays Billy, the quarry of a gang whose campaign of menace increases as the story unfolds. Gill shows determined maturity and in the most grotesque scene brings the audience to pin drop silence with his excruciatingly truthful portrayal.

His scenes with Adele (Sophia Decaro) help to add some meaning and substance to the characters, with Ed Gaughan and Sophie Stone further cementing the history of the dejected teen.

Billy Matthews steals the show however, as gang leader Scott, whose brother's atrocities in the previous year have shaped him into a woeful and sorrowful tyrant.

Terrifying and yet strangely endearing, Matthews is a real star of the future. His gang members, Ella McLoughlin and Moses Adajimi, personify the physical and emotional attributes of tribal following and are frighteningly realistic and familiar.

Visually stunning and beautifully acted, this is an absolute masterpiece and a must see. Herons runs until February 13. For more information visit the website *lyric.co.uk*

■ CHALLENGING: Sophia Decaro, Billy Matthews, Max Gill, Moses Adejimi and Ella McLoughlin Pictures: Tristram Kenton

■ GOOD TIMES: Moses Adejimi as Darren and Ella McLoughlin as Aaron in the play *Herons*. Right: Billy Matthews playing Scott

Pinter classic at the Old Vic

DANIEL Mays and George Mackay join Timothy Spall in Harold Pinter's *The Caretaker* at the Old Vic next month.

The production, directed by Matthew Warcus, premiered in 1960 and was hailed as a groundbreaking classic which changed the face of modern theatre.

It features disturbed handyman Aston (Daniel Mays) who has invited an irascible tramp (Timothy Spall) to stay with him at his brother's jumbled London flat. At first it seems that the manipulative guest will take advantage of his host. But when Aston's brother Mick (George Mackay) arrives, an enigmatic power struggle emerges between the three men that is in equal parts menacing, touching and darkly comic.

The Caretaker will preview at the Old Vic from March 26. For more, visit *oldvictheatre.com*

Talk of the town

New musical and film ready for the Hoff

TV superstar David Hasselhoff is touring the UK in a new musical which will arrive at the New Wimbledon Theatre on February 3, *writes Nicky Sweetland.*

The show, called *Last Night A DJ Saved My Life*, is set in the nightlife capital of Ibiza and features hit songs from the 80s and 90s in an affectionate and nostalgic celebration.

Hasselhoff, or The Hoff as he is popularly known, plays an ageing party animal in the musical and I caught up with the star while he was in Liverpool, a day after he had endured an unfortunate mishap by falling through the stage. The driven and spritely 63-year-old took it all in his stride, however and carried on like a real trooper. He talked to me about the show, which has already received rave reviews.

He said: "It's kind of like the story of Ibiza and the party songs of the 80s and 90s. Everybody loves it. The reviews are phenomenal. You come along and you singalong and people have actually come back because they want to party in their seats and have a couple of drinks. We never forget the words to our songs because the audience are singing along with us."

The story follows Ross (Hasselhoff) who tries to keep up with the times and with his new younger girlfriend (Kim Tiddy), but matters are complicated when his teenage daughter Penny (Stephanie Webber) arrives to stay. The show, which also tackles the prevalence of clubland drug taking, is the tale of two generations colliding and promises to be an hilarious and yet touching hit fest.

The Hoff is best known for blockbuster TV shows *Knight Rider* and *Baywatch* but has also enjoyed a hugely successful pop career in Europe and the Far East. This isn't his first musical theatre role either, as the actor played the title characters in the Broadway production of the epic musical *Jekyl and Hyde*. He's keen to illustrate the difference between the two types of show, with *Last Night A DJ Saved My Life* offering a much more relaxing experience for the performer.

He tells me about the discipline of playing such a complex character on Broadway.

"After the show you don't go out, you don't speak, you have to take good care of your voice. It's a reall different ball game when you're in like the big league, the premier league. This is more fun, kind of like an adult panto."

Hasselhoff has, in fact just finished his sixth British pantomime season. It's a genre the performer has fallen in love with having had his first taste for the sport at the New Wimbledon Theatre back in 2010. He's looking forward to getting back to the iconic venue and the capital.

He told me: "I love that London is such a metropolitan town. There are people from all over the world.

"When you do a show there you have so many different audiences you get to see. It's a little difficult to enjoy London unless I'm in a disguise but it's a great town for me for business because you come in and be a tourist and you'll get a chance to see David Hasselhoff live.

"People freak out when they see the guy from Baywatch jump out of the TV."

Last Night A DJ Saved My Life has some affectionate tributes to the Hoff's most famous works.

"We do a tribute to *Knight Rider* in the show, we do a big tribute to *Baywatch* and the audiences go beserk."

A movie version of the cult 90s TV show, which also starred Pamela Anderson, has been rumoured to be making its way to the big screen.

I asked David if he is involved and what fans can expect from the film version.

"I'm waiting to find out if I'm going to be in it because it all depends on what the script is like. If it's kind of a send-up of the show or it's not cool, I'm not going to do it.

"They wanted to do something similar recently to *Knight Rider* and I read the script and it was awful. If I'm in it it will mean that I endorse it and it means it's going to be good.

"If I'm not in it it means it's not going to be good. I'm sure I won't be the lead guy but it might be a nice little part so we'll see what happens."

If you would like more information on the new musical, *Last Night A DJ Saved My Life,* which will run at the New Wimbledon Theatre from February 3 to 6, you can visit the website *lastnightadj.com*

SINGALONG: David Hasselhoff tells Nicky Sweetland of his love for pantomime

West End favourite a sell-out sensation

Ramin Karimloo
Islington Assembly Hall ****

THE beautifully ornate Islington Assembly Hall was packed to bursting with fans of the West End and Broadway Star Ramin Karimloo when he took to the stage in the second of his sold-out London engagements last week.

At 37 Karimloo has already made a name for himself in the world of musical theatre after originating the leading role in the *Phantom of the Opera* sequel *Love Never Dies* and most recently playing Jean Valjean on the great white way in New York. With matinee idol looks and a velvet voice to match, the singer commands a huge and very loyal following.

This wasn't a musical theatre showcase however, as Karimloo is also a talented songwriter and together with writing partner Hadley Fraser has gained a reputation as an emerging artist on the country western scene.

Following a set by another up-and-coming artist, Steve Young, Karimloo took to the stage with his six-piece blue grass band for a concert of original material with a little taste of the theatre classics mixed in for good measure.

The dark, smokey stage and mood lighting enhanced the rock star feel and gave Karimloo the perfect backdrop to showcase his self-penned music, although it was with the big show standards *'Til I Hear You Sing* from *Love Never Dies* and *Do You Hear The People Sing* from *Les Miserables* that evoked the biggest response from the auditorium.

This was a great evening from a wonderfully talented musician and with an new album on the cards, the future is looking very fruitful for Ramin Karimloo.

Nicky Sweetland

TOP DRAW: Singer and songwriter Ramin Karimloo

March date for Zeller's new offering

WITH *Funny Girl* running at its home base in Southwark, *Close To You – Bacharach Reimagined* in the West End, and *The Color Purple* on Broadway, the Menier Chocolate Factory has announced the UK première of Florian Zeller's *The Truth* in a new version by Christopher Hampton.

Following last year's phenomenal success of *The Father* by Florian Zeller (Theatre Royal Bath, Tricycle Theatre, Wyndham's and returning to the Duke of York's from February), the Menier Chocolate Factory, in association with Theatre Royal Bath, will stage the UK première of *The Truth,* Zeller's biting new play, from March 10.

French novelist and playwright Zeller has been awarded the prestigious Prix Interallié and two Molière awards for his work. This new version by Christopher Hampton (*Les Liaisions Dangereuses*) is directed by Lindsay Posner and runs to May 7. Casting will be announced shortly.

PLAUDITS: Florian Zeller

Talk of the town

Seasons of Larson ****

IT'S been 20 years since the untimely death of the acclaimed composer Jonathan Larson. The anniversary was marked last week by friends and fans alike with an evening of music and celebration at the Lyric Theatre on Shaftesbury Avenue.

Larson's most famous work is the musical *Rent*, which commands a cult following and is credited with changing the shape of theatre as well as introducing the world to Idina Menzel (Elsa in Disney's *Frozen*), *writes Nicky Sweetland.*

Menzel played Maureen in the original Broadway cast of the musical, but Larson sadly passed away on the second day of previews so didn't get to see the show through to fruition.

For the 20th anniversary concert a group of performers was brought together, each of whom had their own connection to Larson but who also possessed some extensive musical theatre experience.

This meant the team, along with the six-piece band, were able to produce an exquisitely touching show, a fitting way to allow the composer's work to live on.

It was an emotional evening, with many of the singers visibly moved by the occasion. The cast of Krysten Cummings, Damien Flood, Debbie Kerup, Anton Stephens and Noel Sullivan performed many of the most famous of Larson's works but also added a few of the less well known numbers, with heartfelt story telling as a link.

Highlights were the rousing *Take Me or Leave Me,* which saw Cummings and Kerup form a fiery collaboration, and *Without You*, which involved a heartbreaking duet performed by Kerup and Flood. Flood was also joined on stage by his daughter, Scarlett Silver, who gave the concert an added cute factor with her rendition of *Destination Sky.*

Fresh from ITVs *X Factor,* Anton Stephens proved why he had garnered so much support during the series. His *I'll Cover You Reprise* was simply stunning.

POWERFUL PERFORMANCE: Krysten Cummings in Seasons of Larson Picture: Claire Bilyard

Songs in the key of Larson

Another TV talent show contestant who has gone on to achieve success as a musical theatre star is Noel Sullivan. The *Popstars* winner and former member of the group Hearsay really is a fantastic performer.

With sumptuous vocals, Sullivan is an expert at portraying both his cheeky and sensitive side, making him captivating to watch.

My only negative from the evening was the sound. The levels took a long time to become balanced, with the band overpowering the vocalists in some of the early numbers and the recorded messages painfully sharp on the ears.

This is one of the difficulties of using a theatre which is set up for a West End show on every other night of the week, so there's little time to prepare.

Most of the issues were ironed out reasonably quickly, meaning the audience could relax and just enjoy the intricate music and lyrics of one of musical theatre's legends.

FITTING TRIBUTE: The cast of Seasons of Larson Picture: Claire Bilyard

London debut for Huff gem

THE highly acclaimed play *A Steady Rain* is set to make its London premiere at the Arcola Theatre next month.

The plot follows Joey and Denny, who have been best friends since kindergarten. Joey helps out with Denny's wife and kids; Denny keeps Joey away from the bottle.

Now they're cops in downtown Chicago, crime is a fact of life. But when a domestic disturbance call takes a turn for the worse, it brings about a change in the weather...

One of *Time* magazine's Top 10 Plays of the Year, *A Steady Rain*, from *House of Cards* and *Mad Men* writer Keith Huff, is a heart-stopping drama about a lifelong bond on the line.

Since its 2009 Broadway debut, starring Hugh Jackman and Daniel Craig, the play has won major plaudits.

Huff has written the script for a film adaptation for producer Barbara Broccoli, to be directed by Stephen Spielberg.

A Steady Rain will get its London premiere at the Arcola Theatre from Wednesday, February 10 to Saturday, March 5, starring Vincent Regan (*300, Troy, Clash of the Titans*) and David Schaal (*The Office, The Inbetweeners*).

KANGOO JUMPS

Being Fit Starts with you. Bounce Your Way into Fitness!

MONDAY
8pm - 9pm
St Alphage Church Hall, Burnt Oak, Playfield Road, HA8 0DF

WEDNESDAY
8pm - 9pm
Ark Academy, Wembley Bridge Road, HA9 9JP

THURSDAY
8:30pm - 9:30pm
Fitness First Leyton, 6 Leyton Mills Retail Park, Marshall Road, E10 5NH

Phone: 07596 655 563 / 07932 593 008
Mail: suppajump@gmail.com

WINE & DINE

The food and drink page for West London

The Fabulous Baker Boys

WHEN it comes to home cooking, there is nothing quite like the smell and taste of freshly-baked bread.

But making bread from scratch can be an arduous process that can go wrong at pretty much every stage. Thankfully, help is at hand in the form of a masterclass with TV's Fabulous Baker Brothers, aka Tom and Henry Herbert.

The brothers, who bake at the family-run Hobbs House Bakery, are experienced in pretty much every area of baking; what they don't know about the humble loaf is probably not worth knowing. But they faced a new challenge when they embarked on a project with brewer AB InBev, to create an exclusive range of 'Beer Bread' - bespoke bread recipes to match different beers.

"Both bread and beer were developed at the same time thousands of years ago by the Egyptians," says Tom - the older of the sibling duo by 10 years. "They share key ingredients, so they're natural bedfellows.

"It took us about six weeks, from start to finish, to learn everything and come up with six individual products," Henry chimes in. "Though in that time, we probably got through more beer ourselves than anything. We're used to drinking them, but now we've learned so much more about beer brewing. It's been really interesting."

They are getting stuck in to making a pineapple soda bread (designed to perfectly complement a chilled bottle of Stella Artois).

Instead of using regular flour, they start off with a base of spelt.

"It's a great source of fibre," says Henry, "and has a low GI, so it's quite good for you - and can even help prevent bowel cancer."

It is mixed it with buttermilk, pineapple and a splash of Stella, before the messy but oh so satisfying kneading. The loaves are brushed with a glaze made from reduced Stella and pineapple juice, then sprinkled with barley.

"This bread is like eating a pina colada cocktail," says Tom. "It's like a summer holiday, but with something more solid and grounding underneath."

Busting out another food history fact, he adds: "It conjures up that feeling of when 19th century Belgian monks brewed beer in their monasteries up in the hills, and then brought it down to the villages when it was ready at Christmas. That warming treat on a winter night would have been incredible.

"Stories like that inspire us. It made us really want to tap into the roots of the beers we're looking at. Rather than simply using the beers themselves to give the loaves flavour, we looked into what gave them each their distinctive flavours and worked out how we could incorporate those raw ingredients into the breads."

Another favourite is the apple, walnut, barley and malted wheat seeded loaf, designed to accompany a cold bottle of Beck's Vier. Because of the bread's strong and chewy texture, the dough needs to be left a good few hours for the yeast to get to work - but it's absolutely worth the wait.

"Becks is a brew with real authority, so you need a solid bread to match," says Henry, and recommends topping the macho slice with smoked mackerel and dill yoghurt.

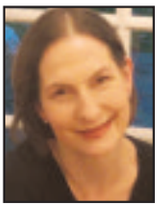
The rest of the brothers' repertoire includes a traditional sourdough made from Hobbs House Bakery's own 60-year-old yeast starter, to partner with a golden goblet of Leffe, a light and fluffy Hoegaarden-inspired brioche flavoured with spiced orange and coriander (pictured), a crusty tiger bread to serve up as a hefty sandwich with a Budweiser and - Tom's favourite - a tangy sea salt and lime-encrusted cornbread, carrying the light and refreshing flavours of an ice-cold Corona.

So, is it easy working so closely with a sibling as the brothers make it look? Henry is the first to jump at answering.

"The great thing is that I can give him a kick if he gets too big-headed," he says.

"I still have to spend Christmas with him, so we have to get along in the long-term. We love each other so we compromise. For example, he thinks he is cleverer than me, but I am bigger than him!"

A touch of decadence in sponge



Belinda Donovan is an experienced chef who was trained at the prestigious La Varenne cooking school in France. She compiled the ***Hammersmith and Fulham Cook Book*** in 2013 and is a regular writer of cookery columns and reviews. An enthusiast for all things Fulham, she has also written articles about the area's rich local history. She is currently a Conservative councillor for the Addison ward and served as Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham for the year 2012-13

I caught up recently with Karen Hardy, who won Strictly Come Dancing in 2006 with cricketer Mark Ramprakash.

She owns the amazingly glamorous Karen Hardy Studios in Fulham in Chelsea Harbour. Believe me, just walking through the door is an inspiration!

Karen is very much a household name from her television appearances and I think it's fabulous that her dance studio is in Fulham so I ask her what she enjoys about working in the area.

Karen said: "Definitely the character of the people who live here. They are fun and funky people who enjoy active and interesting lifestyles.

"I love telling them about the fun things they can do around Fulham - and they age from 5 to 105. It's a fine and vibrant area to have our business."

Talking about her favourite places to eat in Fulham, Karen said: "Working long hours, we like to go to the restaurants around the studio - Blue Elephant, Waterside and Yamal Alsham at Imperial Wharf.

"There are always new and exciting restaurants I seem to stumble upon in Fulham, which is great to see."

I then asked Karen to share her favourite recipe with our readers.

She said: "When I have time, my favourite is normally opening a Gary Rhodes recipe book, which he gave me as a gift when I danced with him, and then adding a twist to the ingredients myself.

"I'm very partial to his Victoria Sponge, which I have regularly been known to make together with my son Callum."

Gary Rhodes Black Cherry Victoria Sponge Cake

Ingredients (serve 8)
6 oz self-raising flour,
1 level tsp baking powder,
6 oz butter at room temperature plus extra for greasing
6 oz caster sugar
Grated zest of 1 orange or lemon
Few drops of vanilla essence,
3 eggs, at room temperature,
Dash of milk to loosen
Icing sugar for dusting.

Filling
5 fl oz double cream
7 oz black cherry jam

Method
Preheat the oven to 170, lightly grease two 8-inch cake tins with removable bases and line the bases with greaseproof paper.

Sift the flour and baking powder into a bowl.

Put the butter, caster sugar, zest and vanilla essence into a separate bowl and beat with an electric whisk for 1 to 2 minutes until light and creamy. Add the eggs one at a time and beat until totally combined. Fold in the flour.

The mixture should drop off a spoon easily but you might need to add a little milk to loosen it to achieve this. Bake in the centre of the oven for 20 to 25 minutes - test with a skewer which should come out clean.

Leave the tins to rest for a few minutes and then turn out onto a wire rack. Peel off the greaseproof paper and leave to cool completely.

Fill the cakes with the whipped cream that you have combined eith the black cherry jam - you might want to add a splash of Amaretto liqueur to this mixture.

■ **KAREN Hardy**
www.karenhardystudios.com

MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

'Heaven and earth' dumplings with ginger

Makes about 20

I was asked to come up with a dumpling for Geoff Leong's Dumplings' Legend restaurant in London's Chinatown. Not something I get asked often, but I had a thought, why not use the black pudding from my restaurant's "heaven and earth" dish? Black pudding is after all a popular ingredient in Chinese cooking. In the end it went on the menu there in the form of xiao long bao soup dumplings, and now gets rave reviews.

You can pick up wonton or dumpling wrappers from Asian supermarkets.

20 wonton or dumpling wrappers
150g or so of soft French- or Spanish-style black pudding
100ml chicken stock (optional)
1 small egg, beaten
30-40g root ginger, scraped, thinly sliced and shredded
4-5tbsp black rice vinegar or soy sauce

If you can't find French- or Spanish-style black pudding, mix it with the chicken stock to soften it.

Lay the wonton or dumpling wrappers out on a work surface, place 1tsp of the black pudding in the centre of each, and brush the edges with egg. Bring the edges up to form a semicircle, or you can make them in the shape of a three-cornered hat. Place them in a steamer and steam for 4-5 minutes . Alternatively you can carefully drop them into boiling salted water for a couple minutes then remove with a slotted spoon.

Serve with the ginger scattered on top and the vinegar spooned over.

■ **HEAVEN ON A PLATE: Mark's Chinese dumplings with ginger**

Classified

Post: London Weekly News, Yeoman House, 63 Croydon Road, Penge, SE20 7TS
Email: candy.brown@slp.co.uk **Telephone:** 0208 768 4919

Courses

Have you an Open Day, Course or anything to do with education?

Then call **Louise** on **020 8768 4923** to advertise in your local papers.

Articles Wanted

OUT OF THE FLOOR RECORDS
25 Years in Camden NW1
RECORDS WANTED
REGGAE + ALL JAMAICAN MUSIC
(+60's, 70's Soul, Jazz, Boogie, Disco, Hip Hop, Etc.)
Forget the rest! We pay the best!! Cash Waiting!!
Jake 020 7485 9958 / 07961 315874

Bargain Buys

NAVIGON SAT NAV SYSTEM excellent condition, working order, for sale £25. Tel: 07960 628 225

BOOT SALE ITEMS 44, Chrome plated free standing toilet roll holder in box and mirror in box, new cushion covers. picture, Christmas tree 3ft, Mug Holder, Toys, cards etc. Tel: 020 8312 2476

JUICER, KITCHEN SCALES, FOOTSPA, ELECTRIC FIRE all £5 each, several records, books, men's clothes, offers. Wall Plates £5 each, Ironing Board £4. 3 Section Ladder, 6ft each.Tel: 020 8286 2677

FRIDGE FREEZER good condition only £49. Tel: 07956 436 764

Caravan & Camping

STATIC CARAVANS FOR SALE
Sited on 5 Star park in Clacton.
Amazing facilities including indoor and outdoor swimming pool.
Open 12 months.
£1,500 deposit. £211 per month
T&C's apply
CASH PRICE £7,995
Call Luke **07950 127697**

Caravan & Camping

CARAVAN FOR SALE
2016 site fees paid
Beach location
Lovely 4★ Park
Fishing lake & clubhouse
Call Vicky
07901 245 934
£11,000
Finance through park
T&C's Apply

Carpet & Flooring

CHINESE LARGE RUG 9'x5', vgc £30. Wimbledon area. Tel: 020 8542 0470

Christmas Trees & Decorations

ARTIFICIAL XMAS TREE FREE, 5ft very realistic, metal frame, packs into box, very heavy, free Tel: 020 8542 0470

Domestic Appliances

HOOVER WHIRLWIND CLEANERS 1 upright, 1 cylinder £45 each. Tel: 020 7733 0623

PHILIPS "VIVA COLLECTION" JUICER as new in box £10. Original enamel bread bin £10. Tel: 020 8855 8824

2 DYSON VACUUM CLEANERS Big twin DC14 upright DC7 serviced, demonstrated working £45 each. Can arrange delivery. Tel: 020 8692 8449

DISHWASHER standard size, serviced Jan 2016, guarantee runs out Feb 2016. Still in use hence £100 ono. Tel: 020 8692 8449

RUSSELL HOB DEEP FRYER 350cc £15, Murphy Richard Bread Baker, hardly used £25. New Food Processor (still in box) £60. New, Grinder (not used) £20. Tel: 07830 535 635 / 020 7358 9745

Fashion

LADIES NAVY STYLED SHORTS crepe material, very smart, zip up fastening on side, brand new, size 14. Tel: 020 8682 0771

Fashion

LADIES TROUSERS beautiful material with inlaid pattern, red, size 18 long length, brand new, smart & stylish £10. Tel: 020 8682 0771

LADIES BLUE VELVET JACKET (Vintage) with smart details on sleeves and peplum style jacket, size 14-16 button up front, good condition £20.00. Tel: 020 8682 0771

LADIES EVENING BLACK SATIN JACKET 3/4 length sleeves and zip up front very stylish with fold detail on front, brand new, size 10 £20. Tel: 020 8682 0971

VINTAGE MUSQUASH FUR COAT size 14/16. Excellent condition, bargain £75. Men's M&S winter coat 2 in 1, size large £15 as new. Tel: 020 8855 8824

LADIES CHOCOLATE BROWN CRUNCHY STYLED JACKET, Two pockets, brand new, washable waterproof, very smart & chic, size 48. £20. Tel: 020 8682 0771

LADIES BEAUTIFUL BLACK CHIFFON EVENING DRESS 3/4 length sleeves with detail, round v neckline and v styled back. Brand new, knee length £30, Ideal for Valentines day! Tel: 020 8682 0771

Fires & Fireplaces

VALOR CALOR GAS HEATER 4 burners with a full bottle £40. Portland Convector Electric Fire, floor standing model 830, 2000 watts. Good working £10. Tel: 020 7733 1836 & 07877 818 162

Furniture

TABLE ROUND GLASS 28" height 37 1/2" across £80. Rectangle glass 16" H, 42" L, 20 1/2" width £75. Wood 20"H, 24 L, 36" W. £30. Tel: 020 8674 3557

PINE WOOD / BLUE OTTOMAN £25.00 (as good as new), pine wood/blue 2 drawer small wardrobe £30.00 (good condition) does need new hanging rail. Addiscombe - call 07733 049 433

Gardening Products

GARDEN WATER BUTT round with tap £20 ono. Tel: 020 8692 8449.

Gardening Products

FLYMO ELECTRIC GRASS STRIMMER unused, 2015 model £30. Unwanted gift, can deliver Tel: 020 8692 8449.

Mother & Baby

MOSES BASKET lemon & white covers, rocking stand, as new £10. Lemon Baby Bath and top and tail bowl £6 as new. Tel: 020 8855 8824

Pets & Livestock

FISH TANK L 3ft, D 1ft, H 18" £10. perfect condition. Tartan wool lined miniature dog's coat and hat, cat's bed £5 the lot. Tel: 020 8855 8824

TV Video Audio

TALK TALK TV internet, Youview, Freeview box £65 ono. Unwanted gift, can deliver. Tel: 020 8692 8449

Tools & DIY

SLATE RIP £14. Tel: 020 8542 0570. Wimbledon area.

Toys & Games

Wii BOARD plus all fittings, 2 games, unwanted gift 2015 model, new £100 ono. Tel: 020 8692 8449

NEW TAMAGOTCHI DIGITAL FRIEND (2) £3 each age 6+, new tamagotchi music cafe £8 age 4+, Alba 7" digital photo frame £5. Tel: 020 8463 0629.

MINIONS PLUSH TOY stands 24", new with the Tag, goggles and brown jacket, gift bag included. £15 Tel: 020 8312 2476

Wanted

HORNBY BACHMANN LIMA MODEL TRAINS WANTED all other makes considered, please call 020 8304 9180 with details.

MODEL RAILWAY TRAINS WANTED BY COLLECTOR , all makes considered, please call on 020 8304 9180 with details

Wanted

WANTED : RECORDS
ROCK, POP, PUNK, INDIE, REGGAE, SOUL...
LP'S AND SINGLES - WHOLE COLLECTIONS WELCOME
CASH PAID!
CALL : 07956832314 / 0208 677 6907
or Email : vinylwanted@aol.com
ALSO INTERESTED IN NON CHART CD COLLECTIONS

ATTENTION LANDLORDS
We will rent your property from you for 5 years!
- Guaranteed Rent!
- We will also look after all of the maintenance!

Call Dexter NOW to find out more:
020 8819 1740
www.shardpropertysolutions.co.uk

RECORDS WANTED Disco, Reggae, Ska, Rocksteady, Dub and Jamaican music. Funk, Dance collections welcome. Tel. 07788 20990. Call back available

SUBBUTEO wanted, especially 1970's football teams. Tel: 07774 788 791 or 01344 453 370 or MrChrisAllen@aol.com

Home Services

Artexing & Plastering

AJ PLASTERING
Small Building Work
• No job too small
Please call Alan
07597 663 838

Building Repairs/Alterations

Ace Building & Decorating Services
Handyman Services, Electrical, Plastering, Decorating, Roofing, Gardening.
First Half Hour Service FREE for OAP
020 8393 6346
07956 230 760

Building

KB Property Maintenance & Refurbishments
Kitchens, Bathrooms, Plumbing, Electrics, Tiling, Painting, Paper Hanging, Carpentry & Flooring.
No job too big/small
18 years experience in building trade
Professional & prompt
Call Ralph for a free quote
020 8688 1416
07828 684 746

Carpentry

CARPENTRY
ALL TYPES OF CARPENTRY DOORS, LOCKS, FENCING, FLOORING, PAINTING, DECORATING & LOTS MORE
SASH WINDOWS MADE, FITTED AND REPAIRED
07885 245 713
020 8715 6313
La.carpentryservices12@hotmail.com

Home Services

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

CARPET CLEANING
Professional reliable service
Fully insured
07717 527 017

Electrical Services

AJB ELECTRICAL
ALL INSTALLATIONS UNDERTAKEN. QUICK, RELIABLE SERVICE.
GUARANTEED
NO JOB TOO SMALL
NICEIC APPROVED
020 8694 9924
07860 770 643

T George
Local Electrician
Lights, Sockets, Fuse Boards, Certificate Cooker Connection
020 8552 9942
07770 774 096

ECA City & Guilds
switched-on ELECTRICAL
All aspects of Electrical Work undertaken in a professional and reliable manner.
Rewires, Fuse Boards, Certificates, Testing and Inspection.
All work carried out in a professional and reliable manner.
07551 757 744
switched-on-@hotmail.co.uk

Continued on next page

London Weekly News

FREE AD FORM

To advertise your unwanted items. Sell them in London Weekly News Series for FREE.

Telephone Number inc. Code .....
Town .....
ADVERTISERS NAME .....
Text of advertisment (Max. 40 words) .....
.....
.....
.....

CLASSIFICATION

ANY ITEMS UNDER £50 FREE. *PETS, LIVESTOCK OR FIREARMS NOT INCLUDED.*
ITEMS OVER £50 PLEASE CALL CLARRY:
020 8768 4931
PRIVATE ADVERTISERS ONLY.

London Weekly News, FREE ADS
Sixth Floor, Yeoman House, 63 Croydon Road, Penge SE20 7TS

Home Services

Tel: 020 8768 4939

Fencing

AFFORDABLE FENCING & LANDSCAPES
PATIOS & DECKING
7 DAYS A WEEK

We will beat any written quotation
0800 622 6889
07506 736 548
We will give good discounts for OAP's
Free Estimates and Advice

House Clearance

AFFORDABLE HOUSE CLEARANCE
Antiques Bought
Furniture Bought
All Areas Covered
Family run since 1987
0800 622 6889
07506 736 548

Handy Man

HANDYMAN
Brickwalls
Blockwalls
Extensions/Patios
Gutter Cleaning etc
Call Bob
07714 651 055

PROFESSIONAL ALL ROUNDER
Interior + Exterior
Painting • Decorating
Tiling • Wallpaper hanging
Laminated Flooring
Fencing • Decking
Carpentry
Kitchens & Bathrooms
Free Estimates
Call Ricky
07951 037 094
"I am your man"

Painting & Decorating

BELL DECORATING
All aspects of work undertaken.
25 years experience.
FREE ESTIMATES
Exterior & Interior work.
07932 957 264

DECORATING ZONE
Small Building Work
Fencing, Painting
Plastering
Walls/Floor/Tiling
Fitted Bathroom
Fitted Door/Locks
Fitted Kitchen
15 Years Experience
07947 667 135

Roofing & Guttering

JGB ROOFING SPECIALIST & SONS
Skilled roofers with more than 26 years experience
We install and maintain many different types of roof:
• Slate roofs • Tiled roofs • Flat roofs • Lead roofs & all types of lead work • Guttering • Fascias & Soffits
• Chimney works from repointing to rebuilding/complete removal • Installation of a wide range of Velux windows
• Skylights • Sun Tunnels and Bubble Domes
07961 922 471 • 020 8715 4287
enquiries@jgbroofingandsons.co.uk
www.jgbroofingandsons.co.uk

Roofing & Building

D. BRAKER & SONS ROOFING SPECIALISTS
07811 449 737 | 020 8764 4747
Flat Roof Specialists
New Roofs, Roof Repairs, UPVc, Guttering & Fascias
All Types of Lead Work and Chimneys - Free Estimates
davidbraker@hotmail.co.uk

Skip Hire / Rubbish Removal

AFFORDABLE RUBBISH CLEARANCE
7 DAYS A WEEK
We will beat any quote
Call Tom
0800 622 6889
07506 736 548
www.moveyourrubbish.co.uk

ALL AWAY
RUBBISH CLEARANCE
ALL AREAS
FULLY LICENSED
020 3723 7525
07983 973 356
We will beat any quote!

To advertise in the
Classified Section
Tel: 020 8768 4919

Plumbing & Heating

NO CALL OUT CHARGE
£35 P.HR - OAP DISCOUNTS
Repairs • Installations • Emergencies
• Blocked Drains • Waste • Boilers
• Taps • Leaks • Showers
• Bathrooms
25yrs experience. Estimates
Russell
07739 357 498 (24hrs)

DR PLUMBING & HEATING
All aspects of plumbing
Boiler installs
Underfloor heating
Landlords & Maintenance
Family-run business since 2001
Call
07545 531 249

Ace Rapid Plumbing
Toilets, Sinks, Taps, Radiators, Blocked Drains, Toilets, Leaks
Bathroom Installations
No call out charge!
No job too small!
24 hour emergency!
07584 136 988
020 3457 5887

To advertise in the
Classified Section
Tel: 020 8768 4919

Storage & Removals

MR BEE REMOVALS
From £20 per hour
Reliable men with vans for removals.
Single items to houses, flats, offices and clearance.
Anytime, anywhere.
(Separate van for rubbish clearance.)
Fully insured.
020 3302 2275
07773 673 535
info@mrbeeremovals.com
www.mrbeeremovals.com

BOILER HEATING PLUMBING SPECIALISTS
We can cover all your needs with just one call
OAP's 10% OFF
Boiler & Heating Repairs / Renew / Updates / Boiler Service / Power Flushing / Plumbing Repairs / Leaks / New Tanks / Ball Valves / Dripping Taps / Friendly Local Service / All Works Guaranteed
Tel: **0203 397 9532**
www.firstcallplumbingandheating.co.uk

PROMPT REMOVALS & HOUSE CLEARANCE
Single Items to Full House
Coastal Runs
Fully Insured
Local & Long Distance
07881 349 156
www.promptremoval.co.uk

Transglobbal TRAVEL AGENT
020 8312 2484
NIGERIA £405 - UGANDA £410 - AUSTRALIA £670 - FAR EAST £415
GHANA £399 - CAMEROON £465 - IVORY COAST £485
AMERICA £399 - DUBAI £260 - NEPAL £460 - JAMAICA £675
Many worldwide destinations available so give us a call.
BRITISH AIRWAYS · Virgin atlantic · AIRFRANCE · Arik · KLM · Emirates
All prices are from, include taxes and subject to availability. Payment plans available on selected airlines.
96 Plumstead High Street, London SE18 1SL

Leisure

Car Boot Sales

BATTERSEA BOOT SALE
HARRIS ACADEMY
BATTERSEA PARK ROAD (A3205), SW11 5AP
EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON
1.30-5.00PM
OPEN RAIN OR SHINE
BUYERS ENTRY
1.30pm - 50p
BUYERS from 12pm - £3
SELLERS MUST BOOK IN ADVANCE
www.batterseaboot.com
24 HR INFO: 07941 383 588

Personal Services

Single mum 24
Wants discreet guy maybe older for casual adult action
Close to rail station
Text **JOY** to **69996** for pictures to see me anytime
18+ £1.50/msg. Fantasy chat. Text STOP to 69996 to end. xTxt.co

To advertise in this section please call 020 8768 4921

Public Notices

PUBLIC CONSULTATION
(Draft Local Plan - Proposals)
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 – Draft Local Plan for the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 that the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation has produced a draft version of the Old Oak and Park Royal Local Plan for consultation.

Title of Document:
The Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation Draft Local Plan

Subject Matter and Area of the Development Plan Document:
The Draft Local Plan sets out the vision, objectives and detailed spatial strategy for future development in the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation's area for the next 20 years along with specific development management policies. It is accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Equalities Impact Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment.

The Local Plan covers the whole administrative area of the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation.

Period within which representations may be made:
Thursday 4th February 2016 until midnight on Thursday 31st March 2016.

How to comment
To make comments on the draft Local Plan and associated documents please use one of the following methods, providing your name and contact details:
Online: opdc.commonplace.is
Email: localplan@opdc.london.gov.uk
Post: Local Plan Consultation, Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation, City Hall, Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA020

How to find out more
The Draft Local Plan and supporting documents may be viewed online at: opdc.commonplace.is or at the following locations during normal office hours:

- Acton Town Hall Library, High Street, W3 6NE;
- Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley, HA9 0AF;
- City Hall, Queens Walk, London, SE1 2AA;
- Ealing Council Offices, Perceval House, 14/16 Uxbridge Road, W5 2HL;
- Hammersmith Town Hall, King Street, W6 9JU;
- Harlesden Library, NW10 8SE;
- Old Oak Community Centre, Braybook Street, W12 0AP; and
- Shepherd's Bush Library, 6 Wood Lane, W12 7BF.

Alternatively, hard copies of this Local Plan can be made available on request by contacting OPDC, either via email or by post (see above).

OPDC will hold a number of drop-in sessions, as well as workshops for specific policy issues. Dates and times for these can be found online (see above) or, alternatively, please contact OPDC via the email provided or on 0207 983 5732.

Local Planning Applications
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

h&f putting residents first

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990
I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:
FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA
Former BBC Media Centre Wood Lane London 2016/00183/FUL
Change of use from Class B1 office use to Class A1 retail use with associated external alteration: replacement of a fixed external glazing unit with an inward opening glass door.
Flat Third Floor 24 Sinclair Road London W14 0NH 2016/00227/FUL
Erection of full width front and rear roof extensions to replace existing; erection of a glass balustrade with a stainless steel handrail around part of the flat roof at roof level in connection with its use as a roof terrace; erection of a hinged rooflight at roof level to provide access to the roof terrace; and repositioning of covered water tank at roof level.
792 Fulham Road London SW6 5SL 2016/00236/FUL
Erection of an additional floor over part of the main roof; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, over part of the existing back addition; erection of 1700mm high obscured glazed screen around remainder of flat roof of existing back addition at second floor level, in connection with its use as a roof terrace; and installation of a door in the rear elevation of the proposed extension at second floor level to provide access to this proposed roof terrace.
170 Wandsworth Bridge Road London SW6 2UQ 2016/00134/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; installation of a new dormer window to replace the existing dormer in the front roofslope; installation of a new window at second floor level, replacement of existing door with a window at first floor level, installation of a high level window at ground floor level, installation of a boiler flue and removal of external staircase at the rear elevation; replacement of 2no windows with new windows to the side of rear back addition at first floor level; formation of refuse storage and bicycle storage in the rear garden; installation of a new shopfront; change of use of third, second, first and part of ground floor levels from a doctor's surgery (Class D1) into residential (Class C3); change of use of basement and part of ground floor level from a doctor's surgery (Class D1) into retail (Class A1); conversion of the third, second, first and part of ground floor levels into 1 x two bedroom, 1 x one bedroom and 1 x studio self-contained residential units.
Parsons Green Depot Including 27-31 Parsons Green Lane, 41-43 Parsons Green Lane, And Land Adjacent To 64 Barclay Road (car Compound) London SW6 4HH 2015/05287/OUT
Demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment of the site to include the erection of a series of 3, 4, 5 and 6 storey plus basement buildings and conversion of existing railway arches comprising a maximum of 119 residential units (totalling 16,500sqm); a maximum of 1,100sqm of Class A1/A2/A3/A4 retail/café/restaurant/bar floorspace; maximum of 2,315sqm of Class B1 workspace and Class D2 Leisure floorspace (maximum 575sqm) in podium block; and maximum of 1,739sqm of Class B1 workspace in Block H; together with associated car parking, new access, landscaping and public realm (Outline application for land use, access, layout and scale) (Amended site address).
120 Blythe Road London W14 0HD 2015/06027/FUL
Excavation of front garden and part of rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the basement; erection of a single storey rear extension at ground floor level in connection with the change of use of the basement and ground floor from Class C4 to one two bedroom and one three bedroom self contained flats.
120 Blythe Road London W14 0HD 2015/06029/FUL
Excavation of front garden and part of rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the basement; erection of a single storey rear extension at ground floor level in connection with the change of use of the basement and ground floor from Class C4 to one two bedroom and one three bedroom self contained flats.
120 Blythe Road London W14 0HD 2015/06028/FUL
Change of use of the rear part of the ground floor and erection of a single storey extension in connection with the creation of a two bedroom self contained flat; change of use of part of the ground floor and the whole of the basement from Class A4 to Class A1 retail.

Lady Margaret Secondary School For Girls 9 - 15 Parsons Green London SW6 4UN 2016/00206/VAR
Removal of conditions 9 (New school entrance), 11 (Landscaping), 12 (Replacement tree), 24 (Crossover) of planning permission ref: 2012/04202/FUL granted 14th May 2013.
27 Benbow Road London W6 0AU 2016/00207/FUL
Installation of an external stairlift to the front entrance steps.
Flat C First Floor 11 Salisbury Pavement Dawes Road London SW6 7HT 2016/00222/FUL
Erection of an additional floor at roof level in connection with the creation of 1 x self-contained studio flat.
24 Fulham Palace Road London W6 9PH 2015/05146/FUL
Erection of a rear extension at first floor level over part of the existing back addition; installation of new doors to replace the existing doors at ground floor level to the side elevation; installation of a new window to replace the existing window at second floor level to the rear elevation; replacement of existing extract duct at the rear of the property with a new internal duct including a roof vent on the rear roofslope (Revised drawings).
Hope And Anchor 20 Macbeth Street London W6 9JJ 2015/05670/FUL
Change of use of the basement and ground floor level from a public house (Class A4) into a residential use (Class C3); conversion of the basement, ground, first and second floor level into a single family dwellinghouse (Class C3).
158 Old Oak Road London W3 7HE 2015/05613/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension including a formation of a hip to gable roof extension; erection of a single storey rear extension; erection of a single storey extension to side of main building.
36 Overstone Road London W6 0AB 2016/00210/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension, involving an increase in the ridge height by 150mm; installation of three rooflights in the front roofslope.
43 Sulivan Road London SW6 3DT 2015/06085/FUL
Retention of use of the single storey extension to the side of the main building in place of the demolished garage as habitable accommodation; installation of a new door and window to replace the existing window at ground floor level to the front elevation.
16 Fulham Park Gardens London SW6 4JX 2015/05970/FUL
Excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement; erection of an external staircase from basement to ground floor level at the rear of the property; erection of a single storey outbuilding in the rear garden.
20 Cromwell Grove London W6 7RG 2015/05976/FUL
Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; installation of a new window to replace the existing window to the side of rear back additions at ground and first floor level.
Fulham Palace Meadow Allotment Association Fulham Palace Road London SW6 6EA 2015/05993/FUL
Widening of existing footpath.
61 Bolingbroke Road London W14 0AH 2015/06084/FUL
Erection of a rear extension at upper ground floor level; installation of an awning at the rear of the property; enlargement of front part of the basement and front lightwell; erection of an external staircase from basement to ground floor level at the front of the property; replacement of all existing windows with new windows to the front and rear elevation.
6 Harbord Street London SW6 6PJ 2016/00246/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height by 200mm; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; installation of bi-folding doors with a Juliet balcony to replace the existing window at first floor level to the rear elevation.
162 Goldhawk Road London W12 8HL 2016/00229/FUL
Erection of a single storey extension to the side of the main building; alterations to the rear lightwell to include installation of new doors and window to replace the existing window and door; erection of new brick piers and metal railings to the far side boundary wall; erection of a new brick pier and an entrance gate to the rear elevation; alterations to the front lightwell.
88 Henchman Street London W12 0BN 2016/00241/FUL
Replacement of existing single glazed timber sliding sash, casement windows and door with new timber double glazed sliding sash, casement windows and door.

59 Carthew Road London W6 0DU 2016/00177/FUL
Erection of a front roof extension; installation of a new door to replace the existing window and the erection of glass balustrades around the flat roof at second floor level to the rear elevation, in connection with its use as a terrace; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition.
59 Carthew Road London W6 0DU 2016/00178/FUL
Erection of a front roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition.
498 - 504 Fulham Road London SW6 5NH 2015/05114/FUL
Erection of an additional floor at roof level in connection with the creation of 2 x one bedroom self-contained flats; increasing the height of the brick gable roof including the installation of new windows to the gable elevation in between third and fourth floor level; raising the parapet wall at roof level (Revised drawings).
FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK) FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING
Hope And Anchor 20 Macbeth Street London W6 9JJ 2015/05670/FUL
Change of use of the basement and ground floor level from a public house (Class A4) into a residential use (Class C3); conversion of the basement, ground, first and second floor level into a single family dwellinghouse (Class C3).
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by **21st February 2016**. See below for ways of commenting on applications.
THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013
NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13
Parsons Green Depot Including 27-31 Parsons Green Lane, 41-43 Parsons Green Lane, And Land Adjacent To 64 Barclay Road (car Compound) London SW6 4HH 2015/05287/OUT
I give notice that Transport For London is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment of the site to include the erection of a series of 3, 4, 5 and 6 storey plus basement buildings and conversion of existing railway arches comprising a maximum of 119 residential units (totalling 16,500sqm); a maximum of 1,100sqm of Class A1/A2/A3/A4 retail/café/restaurant/bar floorspace; maximum of 2,315sqm of Class B1 workspace and Class D2 Leisure floorspace (maximum 575sqm) in podium block; and maximum of 1,739sqm of Class B1 workspace in Block H; together with associated car parking, new access, landscaping and public realm (Outline application for land use, access, layout and scale) (Amended site address).
The proposal constitutes a major development.
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by **21st February 2016**. See below for ways of commenting on applications.
Signed: **NIGEL PALLACE**
Executive Director for Transport and Technical Services
on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL
You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website:
www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Click on the 'Planning Online' logo on the Planning Home Page.
You can also E-mail comments to:
plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk
You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6 between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.
If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE ENVIRONMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU** by the date shown above. Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly. For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 8753 1081** or **020 8753 1082**.

lbhf.gov.uk/planning Online
Send us your comments about planning applications via our website: **www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning**

Hammersmith & Fulham Council

Public Notices

Cost effective advertising that produces results

All major credit cards accepted plus cheques and postal orders

Tel: 020 8768 8696

Fax: 020 8768 8692

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)
(OLYMPIA EVENT ORDER No. 1)(ORDER 2016) TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that to prevent the likelihood of danger to the public and to prevent the roads from becoming thronged and/or obstructed due to the Event, it intends to make an Order the effect of which will be to impose temporary restrictions on vehicular traffic as shown in Articles 2 and 3 of this notice.

1. The Order would come into operation on the 22nd February 2016 and will be valid for 18 months if circumstances prove the restrictions necessary.

   The temporary restrictions of this Order do not apply in respect of:

   (i) a vehicle being used for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes,

   (ii) anything done with the permission of a police constable in uniform, a Police Community Support Officer in uniform or a Council employed civil enforcement officer,

   (iii) in respect of any vehicles or trailers authorised by an officer from the Council to be used in connection with the said Event at Olympia.
2. For the duration of this Order and whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the two-way traffic in Blythe Road will be suspended and no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed other than from its junction with Beaconsfield Terrace Road to its junction with Kvaerner House 68 Hammersmith Road in a south-westerly direction.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be provided via Olyimpia Way and Maclise Road or via Brook Green and Girdlers Road.
4. The restrictions will be in place whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, with the order commencing on Monday 22nd Februaryand last for 18 Months. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 22nd day January 2016.

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Act

Public consultation on the proposed designation of Cumberland Park Factory Conservation Area

The Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) hereby give notice of its proposal to designate Cumberland Park Factory (69 to 91 Scrubs Lane) as a new Conservation Area under the provisions of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

A Conservation Area is an area which has special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. A Conservation Area designation introduces controls over the way the area/buildings are developed, this means:

- Conservation Area Consent will be required for the demolition of most buildings and structures (including walls);
- Works to trees above a certain size will require planning permission;
- New development will be required to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Conservation Area; and
- Restrictions on the type of development which can be carried out with the need for planning permission (permitted development rights/deemed consent)

The OPDC welcome your views on the proposed new Conservation Area designation. The public consultation commences on 4th February 2016 and closes on 31st March 2016.

Further details about the proposed Cumberland Park Factory Conservation Area, including its boundary, is available in the Draft Conservation Area Appraisal. A copy of the Draft Appraisal can be viewed online at: london.gov.uk/opdcconsultations

It will also be available for inspection at the following places during normal office hours:

- Acton Town Hall Library, High Street, W3 6NE;
- Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley, HA9 0AF;
- City Hall, Queens Walk, London, SE1 2AA;
- Ealing Council Offices, Perceval House, 14/16 Uxbridge Road, W5 2HL;
- Hammersmith Town Hall, King Street, W6 9JU;
- Harlesden Library, NW10 8SE;
- Old Oak Community Centre, Braybook Street, W12 0AP; and
- Shepherd's Bush Library, 6 Wood Lane, W12 7BF.

If you would like a hard copy of the document sent to you or have any questions, please feel free to contact OPDC using the contact details below or on 0207 983 5732.

Comments can be sent to OPDC using via the following methods:

Email: localplan@opdc.london.gov.uk;

Post to:

Cumberland Park Factory Conservation Area Consultation,
Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation,
City Hall, Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA.

PLACE YOUR PREMISES LICENCE WITH US FOR ONLY £112 plus VAT

Call Candy
020 8768 4919
Deadline is Friday at 3pm

LONDON WEEKLY JOBS

Call: 0208 768 4919 **Fax:** 0208 776 8863 **Email:** candy.brown@slp.co.uk

Book-keeper
PENGE

Capital Media Newspapers Ltd is the parent company of some of London's oldest local newspapers, South London Press, The Mercury series and London Weekly News series based in South London and we are also Pulmans View From series in Dorset.

Due to a recent change of ownership and re-organisation, the Penge office is looking for a Book-keeper.

The successful candidate will be an all-round accounting person who can deal with the Purchase Ledger, the Credit Control and Sales Ledger as well as other sundry accounting functions.

Along with the relevant qualifications to do this job, the successful applicant will have an excellent work ethic, able to work to deadlines, prioritise work load during busy times and roll up sleeves to help during quiet periods.

Contact Karen Sheppard
Tel: 020 8768 4903
Email: karen@slp.co.uk

CMN CAPITAL Media Newspapers Ltd

Capital Media Newspapers Ltd
Yeoman House, 6th Floor,
63 Croydon Road,
Penge SE20 7TS

HANDYPERSON

Age UK Lambeth, 336 Brixton Road, Brixton, London SW9 7AA

Salary: £19,048 + contributory pension scheme; employee 5% & employer 7%

The Handyperson will deliver a reliable service to a high standard to older people and people with disabilities in Lambeth. A van is provided, full clean driving licence required. Jobs include fitting smoke alarms, grab rails, bathroom accessories, shelves and doors, replacing curtain rails and assembling furniture.

A recruitment pack can be downloaded from www.ageuklambeth.org.uk or requested from **020 7346 6800**. Candidates invited to interview will be expected to provide proof of their eligibility to be employed in the UK. An enhanced DBS disclosure certificate will be required from the successful candidate.

Closing date: Noon Monday 15 February

Interviews: Friday 19 February

Office & Clerical

Two Part-Time Receptionists
required for busy GP practice.

Experience required.
We would like to recruit two part-time staff to start mid-February or March.
Hours negotiable and salary competitive. Friendly, busy practice with free on site parking and good transport links.
CV to **Practice Manager, The Deerbrook Surgery, London, SE27**
Tel: **020 3049 6370** - Fax: **020 3049 6371**

ADMIN ASSISTANT/ RECEPTIONIST
Required for company in SE1.
£16,000 pa
CV's to
patk@copytechgroup.co.uk

To advertise in this, section please call 020 8768 4912

Cost effective advertising that produces results

All major credit cards accepted plus cheques and postal orders

Tel: 020 8768 8696
Fax: 020 8768 8692

King's College Hospital NHS
NHS Foundation Trust

Wheel-Chair Maintenance Technician

The Rehabilitation Engineering Division is seeking a technician to complement their team that forms part of our Wheelchair Maintenance Service operation, currently based in Bermondsey, South London.

We provide a wheelchair maintenance service to 19,000 users in South London. Growth and development of the operation has meant we need to increase the staff at our base. The following post is available immediately.

Mobile repair and maintenance technicians are responsible for the face to face contact with users in the community ensuring that equipment is repaired & serviced. There is a need to have a responsible, caring attitude, combined with an understanding of the needs of people to whom a wheelchair is essential in enhancing their quality of life. There is a requirement to be on-call, out of hours, on a rotational basis.

Suitable candidates are likely to have City & Guilds or equivalent in an engineering discipline such as Mechanical or Electrical Engineering/Motor Vehicle Engineering, combined with appropriate experience in industry.

A current and viable driving licence is essential.

The Trust anticipates it will receive a high volume response to this advert and would like to encourage suitable interested parties to apply as soon as they are able. The Trust may take the decision to close the vacancy prior to the advertised closing date and will not accept applications after this point.

To apply for this post please visit www.jobs.nhs.uk quoting reference number: 213-624062-C.

Closing date: 19 February 2016.

King's

Creating a world-leading Academic Health Sciences Centre

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE | Gold

For further information on the AHSC please visit www.londonsahsc.org

LEAP INTO A NEW CAREER

Take a leap of faith this Leap Year and make it your job to transform a child's life through fostering.

To apply to become a foster carer for the Tri-Borough please call 0800 781 2332

If you have energy, patience, understanding, are over 21, have a spare room in your house and pass DBS checks then fostering could be for you.

You don't need to have had children, though some childcare experience is recommended.

You will receive continuous training and support throughout your fostering journey and a weekly fee of £237 + allowances.

You will be part of a professional team helping a London child reach their potential.

And you can continue to work from home or part-time earning extra income.

If you are interested in providing a home where you can help children and young people to feel safe, secure and cared for, this job could be ideal for you.

www.rbkc.gov.uk/fostering

Hasselbaink agrees move for El Khayati

QUEENS Park Rangers manager Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink was on the verge of finalising a deal to sign his former Burton Albion striker Nasser El Khayati as the January transfer window drew to a close on Monday night.

Rangers had reportedly agreed a fee of around £350,000 fee for the 26-year-old winger, after Burton confirmed at the weekend that they had given the player permission to hold talks about a move to Loftus Road.

Former Albion boss Hasselbaink is well acquainted with El Khayati, having brought him to English football from Dutch amateur side Kozakken Boys last year.

He is Burton's top scorer this season with eight goals and has played both centrally and in wide areas for the League One high-flyers.

QPR were spurred into making a move following the recent sale of forward Charlie Austin to Southampton for £4m and, with Hasselbaink's team now unbeaten in their last four Championship matches, R's fans will be hoping that El Khayati plays his part in a push for the play-offs – beginning with a return to action this Saturday against Ipswich at Loftus Road.

Departures

Prior to Monday, most of the club's transfer business during the window had involved departures, with Austin's exit followed by the loss of midfielder Sandro on loan to West Brom for the rest of the season, with a view to a permanent move in the summer.

The 26-year-old Brazilian, who moved to England in 2010 when he joined Spurs, has played 11 times for QPR so far this season.

His last appearance came in a 1-1 draw with Huddersfield in December.

Baggies manager Tony Pulis wanted cover because of injuries to James Morrison and Callum McManaman.

"I spoke to the manager and was impressed," Sandro said. "I feel happy to be here and very happy to be back in the Premier League.

"As a player I play with my heart, I give all I can on the pitch – all the time I want to win the ball and play the ball. I hope the fans will see the best of me during my time."

Meanwhile, goalkeeper Rob Green, who had been tipped to leave before the window closed, is now likely to run down his contract.

The 36-year-old has been told he will be used only in emergency, and even then can play in just four more games.

That's because a fifth would automatically trigger a new contract based on appearances. And because Green is one of the club's highest earners, R's have called time on his future at Loftus Road.

The past week has also seen a reshuffle in the coaching department, with first team coach Steve Gallen departing after 19 years at the club and goalkeeping coach Paul Crichton leaving.

LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW
With Tony McDonald

ROBERT Green was linked with a move away from QPR before the transfer window closed

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Saturday, February 6
FULHAM v Derby County, 3.00
QPR v Ipswich Town, 3.00
Sunday, February 7
CHELSEA v Manchester United, 4.00

Surrey fans in for a T20 treat as Bravo lines up with Kumar

SURREY have filled their overseas quota for the 2016 NatWest T20 Blast with the signing of West Indian all-rounder Dwayne Bravo.

The 32-year-old, an experienced Twenty20 operator following spells in the Big Bash League and Indian Premier League, will be available for all of Surrey's South Group matches in June.

Bravo, who will line up alongside former Sri Lanka skipper Kumar Sangakkara at the Oval, said: "I'm really happy to have signed for Surrey. It's a club I've always wanted to play for. I can't wait to join the boys in June and play in front of all my English fans."

Game changer

Bravo has struck 4,492 runs at an average of 26.73 and taken 285 wickets at 23.94 in 277 sprint-format matches around the world.

Surrey director of cricket Alec Stewart said: "Dwayne is one of the top all-rounders in world T20 cricket. He's played with great success wherever he's been so to secure his services is a great coup for us.

"He's a game changer and a match-winner – and he told me has always wanted to play for Surrey! I'm sure plenty of people will want to come through the gates to see his talent."

Bravo's arrival came the day after Surrey announced Graham Ford had left the club to take over as Sri Lanka head coach.

The 55-year-old South African previously coached Sri Lanka from 2012 until 2014, before taking over the reins at Surrey.

Ford was instrumental in bringing Kevin Pietersen and Sangakkara to the club, and last season guided Surrey to the second division title in the County Championship and the Royal London One-Day Cup final, where they were beaten by Gloucestershire.

Stewart admitted that losing Ford was a big blow.

"We are extremely disappointed to be losing Graham," he said. "He has worked tirelessly with the players and his efforts can be seen in their individual performances and the team's results."

On Monday, Surrey also announced the signing of Australian T20 captain Aaron Finch, who will provide cover for Sangakkara while the Sri Lankan star plays in the Caribbean Premier League in July.

KUMAR Sangakkara will team up with Dwayne Bravo at Surrey Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

CHELSEA from back page

existing contract. John was advised that while no new deal was currently on the table, that situation could change in the coming months.

"The club has the utmost respect for John and everything he has helped us achieve to date.

"He is a fantastic servant of Chelsea Football Club and a superb captain and, as such, the club will keep the channels of dialogue open."

While Terry's impending departure grabbed the headlines on the eve of transfer deadline day, the arrival of Brazilian striker Alexandre Pato on loan from Corinthians for the rest of the season provided some welcome firepower for Guus Hiddink's side.

And despite doubts over the fitness of the former AC Milan star, Chelsea's Dutch coach doesn't believe that signing the 27-year-old is a risk.

"It is not a gamble," said Hiddink. "Coming on loan makes it possible to have a good view on him. We will give him all the support and it is up to him.

"On loan is good for everyone to see whether he is happy with this club and whether the club is happy with him after this few months.

"He has to settle, we will give him all the time to do that and get used to a very demanding league.

"After he did not make a big next step in Europe, he went back to Brazil so now he thinks he has another chance to make a step in Europe which is a brave step, but it is up to him and we will help him to get fit and see what he can bring to this club."

If Pato does appear to be a gamble, the same can be said of 20-year-old rookie centre-back Matt Miazga, who signed from MLS side New York Red Bulls last week.

The deal puts greater focus on the future of Gary Cahill, who was linked with a move to Liverpool during the transfer window.

Chelsea want to keep the England vice-captain, especially as their league position is still a major concern. But Cahill, frozen out of the side this season, could see his slot in Roy Hodgson's Euro 2016 squad threatened by a lack of first-team activity.

However, Hiddink insisted he wanted to keep Cahill and said: "There are no concerns over his chance of not being in the Euros because he is of big value and he will prove that in the upcoming games.

"If a player is not playing frequently then they must get a bit frustrated and I talked with Gary a few days ago about this situation, which I like always to do with the key players. He is and will be of big importance with the multitude of games we are approaching."

GUUS Hiddink believes the signing of Alexandre Pato is not a gamble

Miazga, who made his debut for the Red Bulls shortly after his 18th birthday, agreed a four-and-a-half year contract at Stamford Bridge. After signing on the dotted line, he said: "I am very happy to sign for Chelsea, a world-famous club with a reputation for major success. I am delighted to be in the Premier League, the best league in the world, and can't wait to meet my team-mates and get going.

"I am still at the beginning of my career but I believe this is the place to develop and learn from some of the best players in the world."

Hiddink said of the defender: "He will be one of the squad members for the rest of the season, and if you have young players you can see what they are capable of in training."

Chelsea also announced two other departures before the transfer window closed, with the surprise sale of Ramires to Chinese side Jiangsu Suning for a reported £25million and young striker Patrick Bamford joining Norwich City on loan.

"We must pay Ramires tribute," said Hiddink. "He is 28 and had a huge offer from a club in China. He was playing but he was not playing regularly here so the club had this attitude to reward him by giving him this beautiful transfer."

FULHAM from back page

defensive midfield. I can play both but I have been playing centre-back for Sturm Graz in recent times. The coach here wants to play good football, with pressing and good passing play. I think this style of play will suit me well.

"I have to learn fast because it's a completely different style of football from the football in Austria," Madl added. "I am so happy to be here and I just want to learn fast.

"I have always heard London is a great city and I am here for the very first time. The training ground is perfect with great pitches and all the things that I will need to prepare for the game."

Key pair

Meanwhile, Fulham were hoping for another boost in their battle against relegation with the news that key pair Mousa Dembele and Ross McCormack could be staying at the club despite being strongly linked with moves before the transfer window closed on Monday night.

French striker Dembele, 19, was thought to be on the verge of a move to Tottenham after undergoing a medical at White Hart Lane, but a failure to agree terms saw the deal appear to break down.

And influential captain McCormack looked set to sign a new contract at Craven Cottage as the deadline drew nearer.

The 29-year-old Scotland forward, who signed in a record £11million deal from Leeds in July 2014, has been strongly linked with a move to promotion chasers Middlesbrough, but on Monday afternoon it appeared that Fulham were close to keeping hold of their star man for the remainder of the campaign and possibly beyond.

London Weekly News

SPORT

Tuesday, February 2nd 2016 ● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427

■ JOHN Terry will wave goodbye to Chelsea at the end of the season Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

No fairytale ending for JT

CHELSEA head into this weekend's vital Premier League clash against Manchester United still reeling from the news that iconic captain John Terry will be leaving the club at the end of the season.

● By LWN reporter **Paul Lagan**
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Sunday's impressive 5-1 thumping of MK Dons in the FA Cup fourth round was overshadowed when the 35-year-old dropped the bombshell that his 21-year career at Stamford Bridge is coming to an end after the club refused to offer an extension to his contract.

Speaking just moments after a hat-trick from Oscar and goals from Eden Hazard and Bertrand Traore saw off the Championship side and secured a fifth round home tie against Manchester City, Terry said: "It's not going to be a fairytale ending, I'm not going to retire at Chelsea.

"I was in last week and my contract is not going to be extended. It's my last run in the FA Cup so I want to make it a good one. It's a big season for me and I want to push on – not just in this competition but in the Premier League as well. My agent made the call like we do every January. He got told over the phone and I called to set up a meeting the following day.

"The club immediately set that up which was great of them to do that. I wanted to hear it face to face. They told me. Unfortunately it's not going to be.

"I knew before the Arsenal game (on January 24) so mentally I've kind of accepted it. We just have to move on and climb the league."

Moving abroad

Terry went on to reveal that he will continue playing next season but insisted it definitely won't be in the Premier League.

"No. I couldn't do that to the Chelsea fans," he said. "I couldn't play for another Premier League club.

"It will be elsewhere for sure. I don't know where and I leave that to the people in charge. It certainly won't be in the Premier League.

"I feel as though I'm in great nick, I'm playing great and I've got a couple of years to go. It'll just be elsewhere."

The former England captain won't be short of offers and there is expected to be strong interest from China and the USA, where his former Chelsea colleague Frank Lampard is currently playing for New York City in Major League Soccer.

Terry, who has been at Stamford Bridge since the age of 14, has enjoyed a trophy-laden career, leading the Blues to four Premier League titles, five FA Cups, three League Cups, the Champions League and the Europa League.

Sunday's FA Cup triumph was his 696th appearance for Chelsea in all competitions since making his debut as a 17-year-old in October 1998

Terry offered one crumb of comfort to Chelsea fans when he revealed that the club have suggested the arrival of a new manager in the summer may open a door for a possible U-turn.

However, with the captain now free to negotiate and sign a pre-contract agreement with teams outside of England, it seems highly unlikely that he will be in a blue shirt come next season.

"They said that when the new manager comes in, things might change," added Terry. "It's a no at the minute. I needed to know now like I have done every January and sometimes it takes a couple of months to get done. Unfortunately it was a no.

"It's going to be elsewhere, which it took me a couple of days to get over. But like I say, I knew before the Arsenal game and my performance isn't going to change – the way I train, what I give for the club. I want to give everything and finish on a high, on 100 per cent good terms with the club.

"We spoke about my legacy and coming back to the club when I finish. The most important thing now is to get us up the league.

"I didn't feel as though I was playing great in the first four or five games of the season, like everyone in the team, and the performances showed that. But since then myself and everyone else has picked up back to where we are. All I can do is keep my head down and plug on because it'll be my last year at the club.

"The club will move on. No player is ever bigger than the club. Ideally I would have loved to stay, but the club's moving in a different direction.

"No doubt they'll sign one or two great centre-backs. I want to come back as a Chelsea supporter in years to come with my kids and see the team doing great.

"Unfortunately that's not going to be with me, but I want to see the team do well. It's going to be my last year and I want to go out at the top."

Surprised

Terry's sudden announcement after Sunday's game sent shockwaves around the football world, with the club believed to be in the dark about their captain's plans to make public his situation and his team-mates equally surprised.

Terry's central defensive partner Kurt Zouma was visibly shocked when informed of the news and said to *London Weekly News*: "It's a surprise. I didn't know. Now we will have to see, what he wants to do.

"It will be a big loss in the changing room. It was just like when we lost Didier Drogba – some big personalities.

"When we lose those kind of players, we have to replace them. For me he can still play. I spend a lot of time with him. He has been playing at a top level since I arrived. He can continue for sure.

"I have never seen John play badly, that's the truth. He was always playing very, very well. We will see what happens now."

Chelsea later released a statement suggesting that a new deal for Terry could still materialise.

A club spokesman said: "John requested a meeting with the club the week before last. In that meeting he asked about the possibility of an extension to his

■ Continued page 27

This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

Focus on Craven Cottage

By TONY McDONALD

Fulham swoop for Madl

FULHAM have added some much-needed defensive steel to their squad with the signing of Austrian star Michael Madl from Sturm Graz on loan until the end of the season.

The 27-year-old became the first arrival under new boss Slavisa Jokanovic last week and could be thrust straight into action this Saturday when the Whites return to Championship action against promotion-chasers Derby County at Craven Cottage.

Easy decision

A centre-back who can also operate in midfield, the 27-year-old came through the youth ranks at Austria Vienna and made a number of appearances for the first team before joining Wiener Neustadt in 2010.

Madl has been with Sturm Graz since 2012 and was their captain prior to making the move to Fulham. He was also involved in the Austria national team squads during their successful qualification campaign for the upcoming European Championships in France.

Speaking after completing his move, he said:

■ SLAVISA Jokanovic has made his first signing

"I'm very, very happy to be here, and to play for a club like Fulham with so much history and great fans. I will give my best to help the team.

"For me it was an easy decision. To get the chance to play for Fulham in the Championship will maybe only come once in your life, so for me it's a dream come true."

With Fulham not in action last weekend, Madl was given his first taste of action in a training match at the club's Motspur Park headquarters on Saturday morning and admitted he was delighted with his new surroundings.

"It was a really great feeling," he said. "To meet all the guys and to play with them today was nice. I got to see all the qualities of the players. There is a completely different speed to the game here and I want to learn fast and learn from my teammates."

Madl also insisted he is perfectly comfortable playing as a centre-back or defensive midfielder.

"I have always played either of these positions," he added. "Some coaches like to play me at centre-back and others like to play me in

■ Continued page 27

BRAVO FOR SURREY AHEAD OF T20 – page 27